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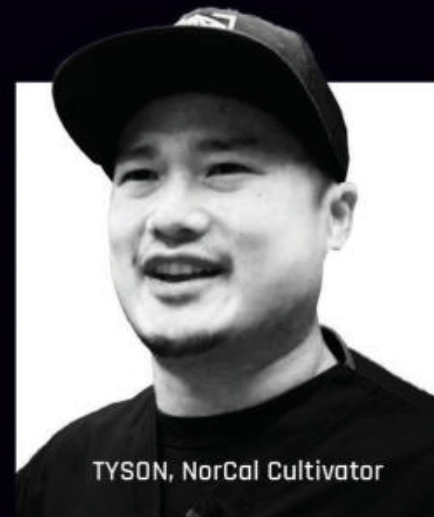
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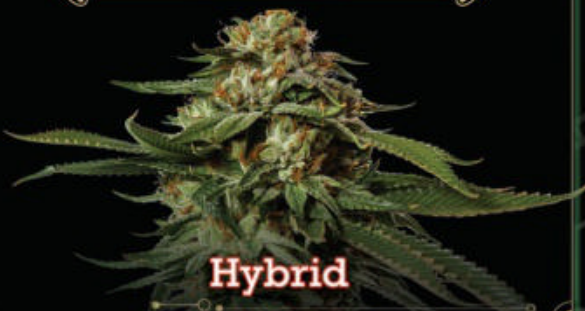
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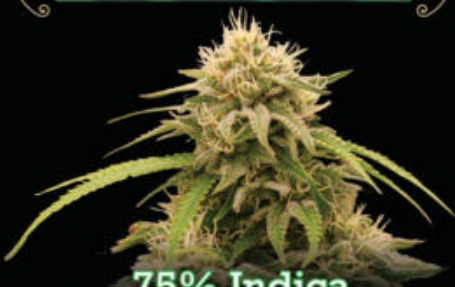
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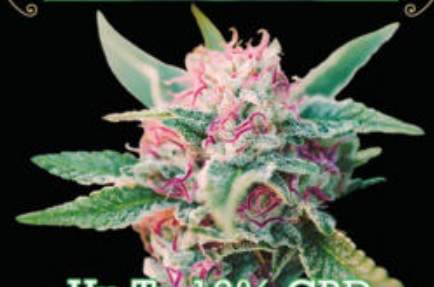
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ON THE
COVER



It's Business Time

In our Business Issue, we explore the cannabis industry's focus on finding and creating new plant genetics. Learn about creating new cultivars with Fig Farms, the long-lasting legacy of Amsterdam-based Green House Seed Company, the inside scoop with Wizard Trees on fire terpene trends, what it takes to become a Cannabis Cup judge, and so much more.

PHOTO: CHRIS ROMAINE, KANDID KUSH, @KANDIDKUSH
SUNRISE GROWN BY FIG FARMS, @FIG.FARMS

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Off to See the Wizard of Trees

Wizard Trees, led by owner Scott, is the reason that beautiful, terpy strains like RS-11 and Zoap have been brought to the masses. Dive into the legacy of this experienced cultivator who talks about the importance of networking, how he identifies terpene trends, and many other factors that have led to his company's success.

34

Fig Farms Keeps Things Weird

Fig Farms is an esteemed cultivator in Northern California whose Cannabis Cup win with the strain known as Banana Fig elevated the company to a new level of success. Owners Keith and Chloe Healy share inside information about their process to create new cultivars and what it takes to stay relevant and on top of industry trends.



46

The Great Skunk Hunt

Skunk #1 rose to fame in the 1980s, but Frank from Purple Caper Seeds has set his sights on rediscovering and resurrecting the original hybrid. He recovered and grew Skunk seeds, some over 25 years old, with the intent of breeding them to match today's strict strain standards.



54

The Reigning King of Cannabis

Green House Seed Company Founder Arjan Roskam opened his Amsterdam coffeeshop in 1992, but he's spent the last three decades seeking out the best genetics in the world. His findings led to the global success of strains such as Super Lemon Haze and Super Silver Haze, among many others, which went on to win a variety of Cannabis Cup awards.



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THE POT OF TOMORROW

The cannabis plant is one of the most diverse botanicals on the planet, and creating new types of weed is big business. In this issue of *High Times*, we explore the stories of several cannabis companies invested in plant genetics.

Jimi Devine spoke to Arjan Roskam, the head of one of the oldest and most well-respected cannabis seed companies around, Green House Seed Company. I joined in a pheno hunt to resurrect one of the original marijuana hybrids, Skunk #1, and took a tour of the California cultivator staying on top of weed smokers' unending desire for unique new flavors, Fig Farms. Our Vice President of Content Jon Cappelletta followed the yellow brick road to Wizard Trees, which is putting out some of the dankest new cultivars we've puffed in recent

days, including RS-11, Zangria, and Zoap. And Staff Writer Benjamin M. Adams took one for the team in sampling a backpack filled with hybrid flowers as part of the Cannabis Cup People's Choice Edition. A Cannabis Cup win is an important milestone that can push weed companies into the public spotlight and often leads to almost instant success in the cannabis industry. We're proud of the most recent evolution of this competition, which lets even more people into the pot party we've been enjoying for so long.

Speaking of partying, this issue also includes an interview with comedian Bert Kreischer, who looks back on his first experiences smoking weed and explains how he concludes his shows at Red Rocks Amphitheatre with a joint and a cocktail after the crowds have gone home. Stephen Laddin also spoke with the performers best known as Machine Gun Kelly and Mod Sun to discuss their new stoner comedy, *Good Mourning*, and the pounds of pot they smoked together on set.

These days, cannabis is a moneymaker for many people, but the secret ingredient to achieving success will always ultimately rely on growing outstanding flowers. The terps speak for themselves! Cultivators and breeders are masters of understanding the cannabis plant and coaxing forth its best possible expression. Luckily for us, those blue-ribbon buds don't age behind a museum case. Cannabis is grown to be smoked and enjoyed to enhance our lives. We encourage you to light up your favorite types today and plant a seed for the pot of tomorrow. 

Ellen Holland
Editor in Chief

HIGH TIMES

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Staff Writers
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Addison Herron-Wheeler

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Founding Publisher/Editor
Thomas King Forçade
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Contributors
Mike Adams, Justin Cannabis, Pedro Corrêa, Tomas Cortes, Jimi Devine, Duraun Epps, A.J. Herrington, Stephanie Hua, Paul Kirchner, Stephen Laddin, Ali Lerman, Mark Miller, J.J. McCoy, Andrew Parker, Chris Romaine, Patrick Seifert, Linda Xiao.

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LETTERS

Hi,

My name is Joe Airone and I'm the founder of Sweetleaf Collective. My mission is cannabis compassion. Sweetleaf, a 501c3 nonprofit, is California's oldest cannabis brand and free medical cannabis program. Founded in 1996, our mission is to ease human suffering by helping low income veterans, terminally ill patients, the LGBTQ community, and people of color access free medical cannabis. I also assist brands and other nonprofits, pulling together independent operators into a cohesive cannabis nonprofit sector. As a founder in the cannabis industry, Sweetleaf Collective is seen as a leader in compassionate use, patient access, and free medical cannabis advocacy. Last year, Sweetleaf's 1,000+ patient network was able to access nearly \$3 million worth of free medical cannabis.

Sweetleaf Collective was recently contacted by two California-based cannabis farms—PRO Farms and Almora—which donated over \$5 million in cannabis to Sweetleaf's veterans and low-income patients. This 2,000-pound bulk flower donation, literally a ton of compassionate cannabis, is the largest cannabis donation in the history of the industry. Sweetleaf is working with Deibel Labs to have this donation tested and is also working with Team Compassion, Highway 1 Distribution, and Special Branch who will be packaging this product and distributing it statewide.

This generous donation from PRO Farms will have significant costs to get it ready for patients. Sweetleaf is doing a fundraiser and is looking for individual donors as well as corporate sponsors to help save lives with free medical cannabis. For more information, visit our website at sweetleafcollective.org.

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NIH Looks at Cannabis for Cancer Treatment

A Notice of Special Interest (NOSI) entitled “Basic Mechanisms of Cannabis and Cannabinoid Action in Cancer” was posted on May 5 by the National Institutes of Health’s (NIH) National Cancer Institute, with the intent “to promote research in understanding the mechanisms by which cannabis and cannabinoids affect cancer biology, cancer interception, cancer treatment and resistance, and management of cancer symptoms.” In the notice, NIH explains that the reasoning behind this effort is due to the growing number of cancer patients seeking relief with medical cannabis, but that there are not enough studies to verify its effectiveness. The notice summarizes what is currently known about cannabis cancer treatment by explaining that data regarding risk for cancer patients is not widely available. It also briefly defines the activity of various cannabinoid receptors and various other topics. The NOSI concludes by inviting researchers with a focus on topics such as cancer risk, cannabinoid ligands and receptors, cancer biology, cancer treatment, and symptom management to participate in a wide variety of research opportunities.



Read more at [HighTimes.com](https://www.hightimes.com)



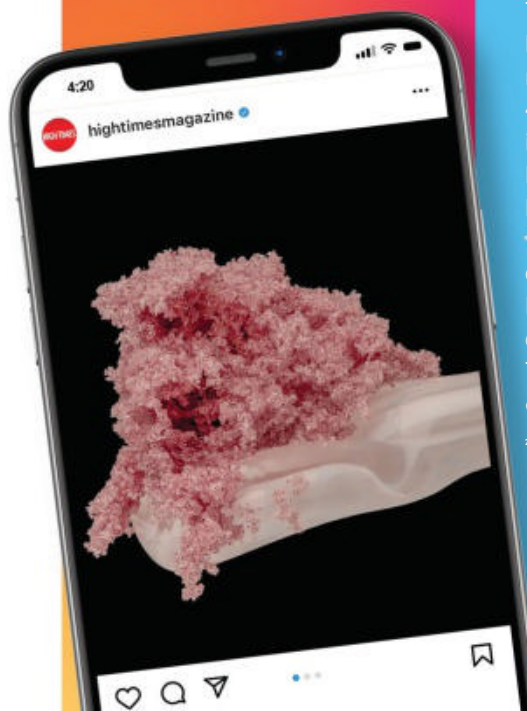
Israeli Company to Unveil Psilocybin Nasal Spray System

Israeli biopharmaceutical company Madrigal Mental Care recently unveiled novel nanotechnology to deliver psilocybin via nasal spray for the treatment and prevention of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) at Biomed Israel 2022. The nasal spray system enables nose-to-brain delivery of organic nanoparticles that encapsulate molecules of psychedelic substances—in this case, psilocybin. This nasal spray delivery system can also be used to deliver ketamine, mescaline, MDMA, and other psychedelics. The nanotechnology was invented by Professor Amnon Sintov in the department of biomedical engineering at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev (BGU) with licensing from BGN Technologies, the Technology Transfer Company of BGU. An increasing number of studies are exploring the use of psilocybin for the treatment of depression, end-of-life care, and PTSD. Nasal spray delivery systems are already used in many ketamine-assisted therapy clinics in the U.S.

Read more at [HighTimes.com](https://www.hightimes.com)

On Instagram

During *#MacroMondays*, we see some of the best macro shots, but you don’t always see concentrates with this color. This ice water bubble hash made from Trop Cookies is positively pink. Captured by *@the.cannabanist*, the hash was extracted by *@one.plant.fl* and *@sunnyside.dispensary*. Imagine the eye-catching, Instagram-worthy posts that could be made using this ice water bubble hash in an infused pre-roll or a dab.



Tweet your best high observations and comments our way (*@HIGH_TIMES_Mag*) for a chance to be featured on this page! And be sure to follow us on Facebook: (*Facebook.com/HighTimesMag*) and Instagram: (*@hightimesmagazine*) for all the latest news as it’s happening!

@DrSafeCannabis *@HIGH_TIMES_Mag* and *@midshunter*

Here’s the scoop. Don’t be fooled. The industry needs to stop misleading consumers with false value propositions and start focusing on labeling accuracy to allow science to guide consumer purchase behaviors. *#THCpotencyproblem* *#medicalcannabis*

@eldermilbrand *@JordanTishlerMD* *@HIGH_TIMES_Mag*

As a recovered alcoholic, cannabis is a much safer alternative. As of a few years ago, more people die from alcohol and alcohol related deaths than those that die from prescription drugs AND illicit drugs COMBINED! Alcohol is the REAL gateway drug *#alcoholfree* *#cannabis*

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Dear Cannabis, I didn’t know a love like this could exist How can you blame me that I couldn’t resist With pheromones so strong, you beckon me in, let me know I belong. *@HIGH_TIMES_Mag*

@bandits_bud *@HIGH_TIMES_Mag*

The best way to get around all the bull@#\$% is to grow your own. Born and raised in Oklahoma and been growing for 46 years. I live in Texas now where the gov is worried so much about his borders that he overlooks the people who need him to legalize cannabis for their pain

@Oaksterdam OU Faculty, and Legacy Leader in the *#cannabiscommunity* *@jeffj420* was interviewed by *@HIGH_TIMES_Mag*. Jeff Jones has provided expertise in the medical cannabis field in *#California* for over 23 years.



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- Mark Kaz - High Times Director, Competitions & Events



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POT'S NEW PARADIGM

Doing well in the legal **cannabis business** sector requires doing good.

MUCH HAS CHANGED IN THE FIVE DECADES SINCE ECONOMIST MILTON FRIEDMAN'S landmark essay, *The Social Responsibility of Business is to Increase Profits*, appeared in *The New York Times* in 1970. Its thesis—then in the mainstream, but later much derided—argued that business should do business, and government should govern (i.e., collect and spend taxes wisely). It reflected the definition of fiduciary duty at the time, strictly limiting company officers' and board members' responsibilities to financial performance. Meanwhile, rules and regulations around environmental matters, labor practices, and such were very lax and limited compared to today's standards.

Of course, we have since seen a pendulum swing far to the other, more altruistic side with the rise in so-called “stakeholder capitalism,” in which roles have in many ways been switched, with government playing a far more active role in business while introducing rules and regulations across social and economic impacts. Conversely, the industry now engages in and defends a wide range of causes once reserved for politicians and activists.

WHERE DOES ALL THAT LEAVE US?

Since Friedman's manifesto has come a realization that internalizing profits while socializing environmental and social costs was an unsustainable economic model: As big as the planet may be, its resources (both material and human) are decidedly not infinite. There were going to be consequences to an ever-accelerating race to the top,

including structural inequities of income, and uneven access to everything ranging from water and sanitation, to technology, education, healthcare, and more. Meanwhile, there came a gradual shift in expectations for corporate behavior. New Frontier Data's report, *ESG + Cannabis: The Promise and Path to a New Paradigm*, is a contribution toward that progress.

ESG (i.e., environmental, social, and governance) criteria represent goals for evaluating a corporation to the extent to which it benefits the society in which it operates. Investors are increasingly applying these non-financial factors as part of their analysis process to identify material risks and growth opportunities. Ultimately, a well-executed ESG strategy will enhance and benefit operational dynamics including risk mitigation, commercial opportunities, brand value, and both customer and employee acquisition and retention. Any or all of the performance indicators can be viewed as potentially providing positive returns on investment.

Conceptually, ESG parallels the United Nations' (U.N.) *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, a shared blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet, now and into the future. Its core comprises 17 sustainable development goals (SDGs) in an urgent call for action by all countries—developed and developing—in a global partnership. They recognize that ending poverty and other deprivations must go hand-in-hand with strategies that improve health and education, reduce inequality, and spur economic growth—all while tackling climate change and working to preserve our oceans and forests.

Today's surging interest in legal cannabis is being fueled, in part, by a realization that an immense illicit market already exists, and that legalization can not only displace the illicit market, but also mitigate many of the illicit market's negative social, public health, and environmental effects. New Frontier Data estimates that by 2025 the legal market could grow to \$51 billion, more than doubling from \$24 billion in 2020. However, even with the legal market's rapid expansion, the illicit market will generate nearly nine times the sales, with consumers globally spending an estimated \$445 billion on unregulated products.

“It is imperative for U.S. companies to be proactive and intentional with environmental, social, and corporate governance, as they will set the standard that the rest of the world will follow,” said John Kagia, New Frontier Data's chief knowledge officer. “As the path to federal legalization remains stymied and complex, stakeholders are not waiting for federal approval as they work to build a successful and sustainable industry.”

ESG + Cannabis underscores a multi-stakeholder approach to the action items required to align an emerging global cannabis economy with the U.N.'s sustainable development goals. >>

“As the path to federal legalization remains stymied and complex, stakeholders are not waiting for federal approval as they work to build a successful and sustainable industry.”

- John Kagia

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Initially driven by emerging issues, timely crises, and full-blown disasters—involving displaced people, chemical accidents, vast clear-cuttings, unchecked child labor, and financial scandals—executives from individual businesses to entire industries were called to task. Efforts to respond were spotty at first, and rife with what came to be known as “greenwashing”—token measures taken by corporations to disguise and dodge accountability for practices which would require far more substantive (and costly) changes. Nevertheless, pressure was on, and coming from nearly every quarter—be it investors, regulators, consumers, employees, or the public at large. New rules were put into place. New standards emerged. In many aspects, they have replaced the previous foundations of business in the modern economy. And—try as some may (e.g., the *Panama Papers*)—they can run, but they cannot hide.

How do these trends relate to legal cannabis? Expecting a nascent, post-prohibition industry to behave like a mature one is daunting at best. While industry leaders in the fields of chemicals, agriculture, pharmaceuticals, apparel, and more have had decades to get up to speed on matters of environmental

stewardship, social responsibility, and good governance, it seems almost unfair to expect a novice to join the fray with any confidence for success.

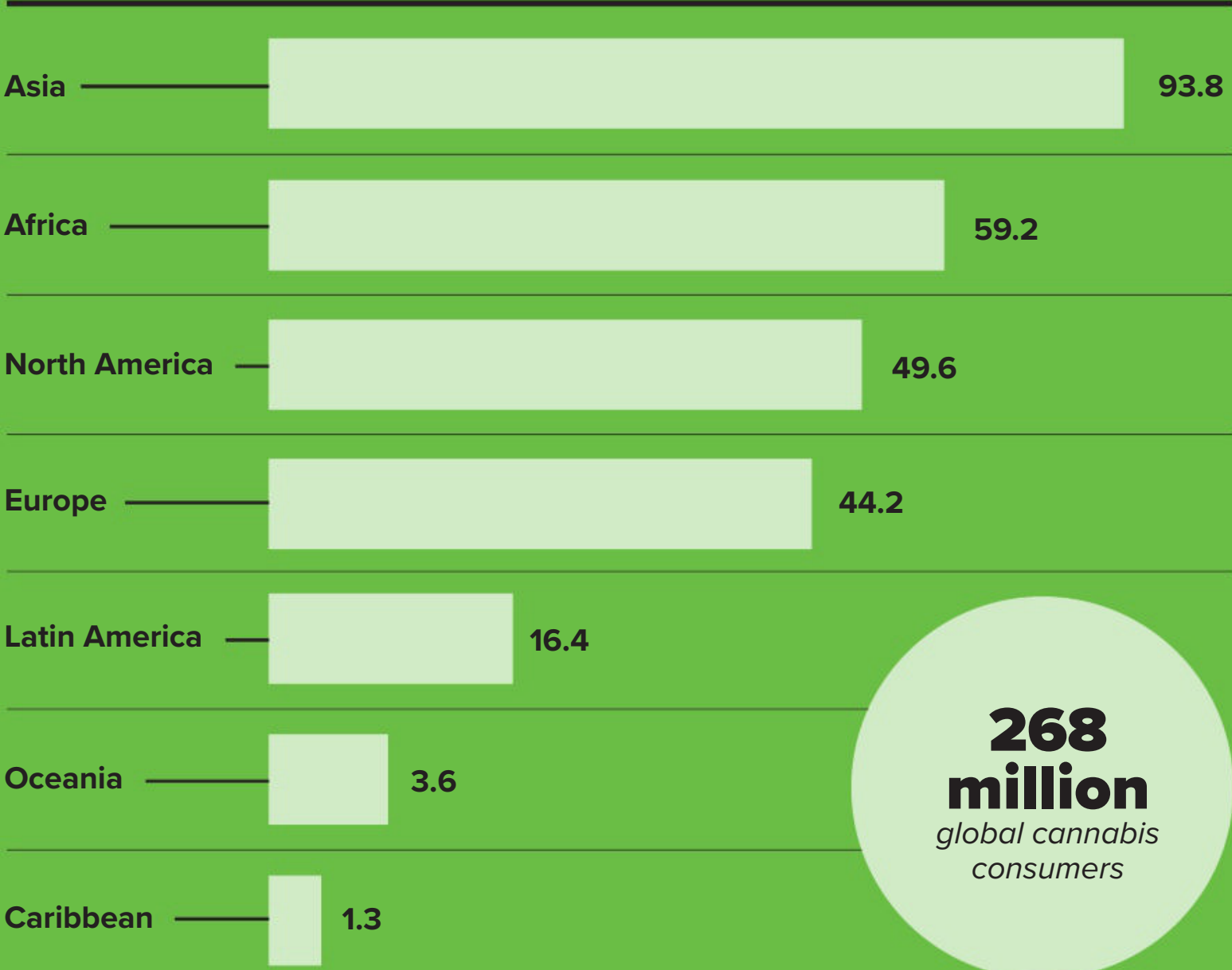
The bad news is, the realities are unavoidable: The rules have changed, so businesses need to adapt or fail. The good news is, the rules are very clear, the paths fairly well trodden, and leading organizations have found myriad ways to move from defensive to proactive postures while optimizing results and reputations.

Perhaps most significantly, the cannabis industry has an unusual opportunity when compared to almost any other sector, to get things right while coming out of the gate.

Cannabis retailers face a host of challenges and limitations in a rising, fast-paced industry marked by conditions and requirements which can range from the unique to the nonsensical. Nevertheless, there are agile, consumer-centric, data-obsessed companies always looking to work smarter to meet those challenges and thrive in a given market—and those are the companies whose leaders will maximize opportunities and shape the future. 

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A PASSION FOR PEOPLE

Cherissa Jackson, also known as “America’s Combat Nurse,” is truly dedicated to helping veterans get relief with cannabis.

PLEASE WELCOME TO THE TWENTY22MANY VETERAN Chronicles, one of the hardest working activists in the country. The story of Cherissa Jackson—a woman, mother, veteran, advocate, and warrior—is bound to inspire you. It is truly an honor to introduce you to such an amazing individual.

Jackson is a U.S. Air Force retired veteran who has served 23 years of active-duty military service, with 10 of those years as a nurse. She is now recognized as a U.S. Air Force combat veteran. She has served her country

three different times in combat deployments in Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. Jackson eventually became known as “America’s Combat Nurse” because of her extensive combat experience. Needless to say, her accomplishments are absolutely incredible.

After leaving her service in the U.S. military and stepping into a civilian role, Jackson became an ambassador and advocate for people suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Her accolades are many and a true testament to her support and advocacy for veterans and people everywhere.

In 2016, Jackson wrote *At Peace Not in Pieces: Powering Through My Pain*, a personal memoir of how she has learned to cope with her own PTSD symptoms. According to the *American Nurse* journal, Jackson embarked on a mission with SHEROES United and traveled to Rome, Italy in 2016 to discuss the ongoing stigma of PTSD, and where she coordinated with the Vatican, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and the city of Amatrice, Italy. Jackson has also traveled to Uganda on a humanitarian medical mission with Project Give Hope, where she brought school supplies, shoes, rice, sugar, soap, and other necessities.

Jackson was named one of “25 Individuals of Influence” in the June 2018 issue of *PTSD Magazine*. She was also a Nightingale Award Winner at the 2020 Star Nurses Awards, presented by *The Washington Post* and American Nurses Association. Jackson also holds a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree from the Medical University of South Carolina and was recently accepted into the University of Maryland Masters of Science program in Medical Cannabis Science and Therapeutics. >>

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In regards to cannabis activism and advocacy, Jackson is one of the hardest working activists I have ever known. She is an amazing breath of fresh air and representation of dedication, which she displays day in and day out. Last year, Jackson created a virtual conference called the AMVETS HEAL Program Veterans Alternative Healthcare Summit, which was held on June 27, 2021. There, she discussed the efficacy of medical cannabis and how it can save the lives of veterans.

Most recently, Jackson is the founder and CEO of We Decode, a company that provides predictive and personalized whole health suggestions for optimal health while using cannabis. The organization's DNA tests and genetically aligned cannabis formulations provide a faster approach to treatment that help to avoid delays in care while saving veterans time and money and creates a better experience for her customers. No longer will veterans have to endure months of trial and error from taking products that aren't a positive and effective experience. No longer will veterans have to spend thousands of dollars on products that don't work or treat their symptoms of pain, anxiety, stress, loss of sleep, and PTSD. We Decode takes the guesswork out of selecting what type of medical cannabis will work best.

This past May, I had the honor of sharing the same stage with Jackson at the 2022 Cannabis Science Conference West in Long Beach, California, as she moderated the discussion on veterans. Amidst her busy schedule, Jackson took time to discuss medical cannabis, veterans, and the end of prohibition.

High Times: Someone joining the military today is more likely to die from suicide than in combat or a training accident. Why do you think this is happening?

Cherissa Jackson: [The] military is not the only career where suicide is at a high rate. Many veterans take their lives after military service because of the "invisible scars" of war that many don't get treatment for after leaving the military.

What's the single most important piece of legislation you have worked on for cannabis legalization or veterans' access to medical cannabis?
[The] Veterans Medical Marijuana Safe Harbor Act.

**"Plant medicine has been around for centuries, and patients should feel empowered to choose this option."
- Cherissa Jackson**

You are a decorated combat nurse. Do you believe cannabis will change the medical world as we currently know it once it's allowed to play with the others in Big Pharma?

Absolutely, plant medicine isn't new. Many doctors and practitioners don't prescribe [cannabis] and aren't huge advocates because they aren't knowledgeable about its efficacy. Once we get the medical field on board and educated about the ECS [endocannabinoid system] and how cannabis is medicine, it will change how providers manage their patients. Plant medicine has been around for centuries, and patients should feel empowered to choose this option.

I can't begin to tell you how important your work is. Giving a veteran the knowledge to seek out the "right" cannabis strain is very special, especially because cannabis affects every human being differently. With that being said, is there a common or popular strain that keeps popping up in your searches?

Every patient is different and has different reasons for taking cannabis. It's important that consumers are educated about the cannabis plant so they can make an informed decision about their health and the best strain for them.

I ask every activist I have ever interviewed in the past two years this next question, and I have never received the same answer. Do you believe we will see an end to cannabis prohibition?

Yes, I believe it will happen, and it's the efforts of cannabis advocates and groups that will help this fight. It's only a matter of time, just like alcohol, that it will happen. I hope it will be soon. Veterans are dying while Congress is making this decision. Time is of the essence if we want to save veterans and change the trajectory of their lives with plant medicine. 

 wedecode.me

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MARKET ANALYSIS

As the summer of '22 winds down, the cost of cannabis flower in America dropped to **\$303** per average ounce. This decline was sparked by dips in the Western market to **\$278** an ounce and the South, which, at **\$298** a zip, sank below the **\$300** barrier for the second time this year. The “Top 5” saw a tie between relatively inexpensive Runtz and longtime slapper strain Blue Dream.

TOP 5 STRAINS

1	Blue Dream	3 @ \$267
2	Runtz	3 @ \$216
3	OG Kush	2 @ \$378
4	GG	2 @ \$336
5	Wedding Cake	2 @ \$290

WINNERS



↑	Jazz Pharmaceuticals	NAS: JAZZ	\$144.03 (+2.16)
↑	Cara Therapeutics	NAS: CARA	\$9.22 (+1.77)
↑	Abbvie Inc	NYSE: ABBV	\$152.09 (+1.13)
↑	Cronos Group Inc	NAS: CRON	\$3.18 (+0.35)
↑	Aurora Cannabis Inc	NAS: ACB	\$2.62 (+0.09)

LOSERS



↓	Altria Group	NYSE: MO	\$51.57 (-3.69)
↓	Village Farms Intl	NAS: VFF	\$3.36 (-0.48)
↓	Hydrofarm Holdings Group Inc	NAS: HYFM	\$7.63 (-0.26)
↓	Growgeneration Corp	NAS: GRWG	\$4.97 (-0.24)
↓	Leafly Hldgs Inc	NAS: LFLY	\$9.17 (-0.24)

HIGHEST 10 STATES

NEW JERSEY	\$515
Sunset Sherbet	
ARKANSAS	\$490
Chem Squeezy	
NORTH CAROLINA	\$480
GG	
OHIO	\$470
Robots	
HAWAII	\$440
Skywalker Kush	
PENNSYLVANIA	\$440
Yellow Brick Road	
MASSACHUSETTS	\$440
Palpatine	
NEW MEXICO	\$420
Lemon Alien	
CALIFORNIA	\$408
Angry Apples	
GEORGIA	\$400
OG Kush	

LOWEST 10 STATES

OREGON	\$110
Donkey Butter	
INDIANA	\$138
Runtz	
KENTUCKY	\$150
Runtz	
ARIZONA	\$170
Grape Gas	
NEVADA	\$180
Miracle Whip	
WASHINGTON	\$180
Maple Syzzrup	
COLORADO	\$192
GG	
OKLAHOMA	\$200
Dirty Money	
TEXAS	\$225
Hindu Kush	
MONTANA	\$240
Blue Dream	



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OFF TO SEE THE WIZARD OF TREES

An introduction to the man behind the curtain at **Wizard Trees**.

by Jon Cappetta

IF YOU'VE PAID ANY ATTENTION TO WHAT'S happening in the California cannabis scene over the past few years, you've likely already heard of Wizard Trees. Hell, you don't even have to be in California to have heard the good word. Known for growing some of the most popular strains of recent years, like RS-11, notably popularized by the street-savvy Doja Pak, and its latest adaptation, Zoap, both of which were bred by longtime partner DEO Farms,

the cultivation skills at Wizard Trees are hard to ignore.

The brainchild of Scott, a true Los Angeles local who has been cultivating high-grade cannabis for around eight years, Wizard Trees is the product of trial and error and putting in the work. While most brands today are focused on volume and scale, for Scott, the bar to wear his logo is constantly elevating. If it's not beautiful, if it's not terpy, it's just not Wizard Trees.

In the year since I've started talking to Scott about his business, this elevation has become apparent. When we first spoke, he told me flower was, and I quote, "the main focus, but I'd like to do some like rosin, high-end concentrates, actually."

This May, he took home second place in the Hydrocarbon Solid category at the highly prestigious Emerald Cup for his work with Doja Pak and FIELD Extracts on their RS-11 live resin. So, as you can imagine, things are going well. With all the acclaim, I had to hear the story of how he scaled arguably the tallest mountain in our industry in such a short time. What I wasn't expecting, however, was all the other players Scott was about to mention. >>

"We're trying to get customers for our brands for life—not just one time and then you go out and talk shit because it wasn't very good. We want to be like, 'Yo, have you tried this shit? It's so fucking fire!'"
— Scott

BECOMING THE WIZARD

Although Scott wholly owns Wizard Trees, he's well aware that his network is an important key to his success. From humble beginnings running home grows to an opportunity that helped him scale to 100 lights, it was Scott's passion for high-quality cannabis that started him on his journey.

"I saw people making Instagrams," Scott told me. "When I first started, I watched the Jungle Boys a lot. I kind of picked pieces from their Instagram, and I was like, 'These guys are fucking killing it.' I'd always go to TLC [Toluca Lake Collective] and the other top dispensaries at the time, just trying to learn stuff like that."

At this point, Scott was finding some success with his 12-light setup, but he fell into an opportunity that forced him to learn how to scale to the next level quickly.

"It definitely wasn't easy, but I think the biggest part was getting a facility to run those 100 lights," he said. "Where I started, I didn't really know a lot of technology. I didn't know how to irrigate. I was hand-watering. I just wasn't using my brain on anything, but then I started to figure out, you know, like VPD [vapor pressure deficit], temperature, humidity, irrigation tech. John Slab Lab was the one that started teaching me how to do irrigation and stuff like that. From the second I caught on to how to irrigate and how to read graphs with certain sensors, I was able to scale at a very high level and very quickly because I knew what I was looking for. Back then, it was like, 'Shit, something looks like it's wrong here.' You know, 'Let's see what's going on.' [Now I] could identify it very quickly."

About a year into running his 100-light facility, Scott realized the pressure was making a diamond, and his job got easier.

"Now there's a lot of different technology where you can see what's going on immediately. You can get alerts on your phone if temperatures go out of whack. If

it starts getting too hot, just shut the lights off. Immediate, real-time responsiveness... And then, from there, people saw what we were capable of. I got more opportunities and got more spots, and just continued to grow at a very, very fast pace."

With the increased attention, it was paramount to Scott that anything hitting the streets that bore his name was of the highest possible caliber.

"What we look for is, you know, similar terpene profiles to what's hot in the market right now, but we're trying to recreate something new, where it's similar to something, but it has its own twist," he said. "We're trying to get customers for our brands for life—not just one time and then you go out and talk shit because it wasn't very good. We want to be like, 'Yo, have you tried this shit? It's so fucking fire!' That's what makes it fun. I got into this because I love smoking weed. I was on the hunt trying to find the best genetics and grow the best flower on the planet, you know?"

Throughout his own growth, he partnered with friends to develop a

ZOAP





“So everyone that I partner up with, we usually have similar ambitions on trying to find dope new genetics and just hunting for the new thing to keep it exclusive to the group.”

nutrient line called NPKaliPro. Today, he considers that part of his secret sauce.

“It’s gotten the product where it is, my pro salts,” Scott said. “I think the way everything smokes, how clean it smokes, that’s a factor. Why it smokes that way, why the ash is so white, why the terps are the way they are...”

TEAMWORK MAKES THE DREAM WORK

Although Wizard Trees is its own brand, Scott is quick to point out the other players that helped him get to where he is today, and that collaboration has elevated his game to levels he didn’t

know he could reach. Most notably, he attributes a lot of his success to Deep East, the person behind DEO Farms, who breeds most of the genetics Wizard Trees grows.

“Rob [Deep East] was working with my partner at the time, and there was a falling out between the partners, and I received all of Rob’s genetics,” Scott said. “He had given my partner all these seeds, the Rainbow Sherbet seeds. We popped 100 seeds, and we found the RS #3, our RS-11, and the RS #54, which is Studio 54.”

After Scott connected with Rob directly, it was clear the two were on the same page. Seemingly kismet, Scott pitched an idea to Rob.

“Let’s build something together and just keep working on this.”

As you can likely tell by now, things only picked up speed from there.

“I have always gone after the highest quality strains, you know? Trying to find the best genetics and keep things on an exclusive level to at least the group and infrastructure that I’m a part of,” Scott said. “I think it’s cool what he’s doing, and now what our group is doing on the genetic side. How we can keep it a small, tight-knit group inside the cannabis industry—people that have been in the industry for a minute—and then just elevate each other to the next level. I think the way that we put the group together, I think it just kind of fell in place this way. Rob’s the breeder, I’m the grower,

and Ryan’s the distro. He’s the one that gets it out. And I mean, at this point, all three of us have really big names. So whatever we touch, it kind of just... I mean, I don’t like to put out anything that’s not good. So if it’s not good, I just don’t grow it. But the bigger it is, the more people see it, the bigger it takes off.”

And that model seems to work with the partners, as we’re seeing with his latest collaborations with Fiya Farmer, Zangria, and CREAM.

As Scott told me, “[Fiya Farmer] was one of the first people that I actually met through Instagram. We started super small, and we’ve always kept in contact. Our latest, CREAM, is GM3 x Thin Mint Cookies. GM3 is the first female I ever found from seed. It’s a Grease Monkey pheno from Exotic Genetix.”

Another longtime partner, SMKRS LA (aka Captain Save A Grow), is actually the guy who selected Studio 54 and the RS #3, which SMKRS is currently running as Shirazi.

“So everyone that I partner up with, we usually have similar ambitions on trying to find dope new genetics and just hunting for the new thing to keep it exclusive to the group,” Scott said. “If everyone has it, it’s not that cool. There’s a lot of really good genetics out there. But if everyone on the planet has it... It’s worked out pretty well between me, DEO, and Doja and the other partners that have been a part of it along the way.” >>

DOWN THE YELLOW BRICK ROAD

With some of the most in-demand genetics in the game right now, it's easy to assume that Scott would just stick to his lane and keep pumping out primo in California, but that's not a big enough goal for Wizard Trees.

"I think the goal is to try and be in every high-end state," he said. "The biggest problem is making sure that everything gets grown properly. You know, the biggest concern of having anyone grow our strains is that it's not going to be up to our quality, and we don't want to see the brand get tarnished if it's not grown correctly because, at this point, everyone knows what's good and what's bad. And if you put out some bad flower into your brand, people don't forget that. Scaling up too quickly is a problem.

"You know, people don't really understand. This isn't the easiest thing ever," Scott said. "I am hoping to be a part of a group that just basically takes what I've done here and can scale it from state to state and be a part of that process and make sure that they grow out the same way that I like it to be grown."

But just growing his own brand isn't enough for Scott. He's constantly putting together new projects, like Avantt, a collaboration between himself, Deep East, and Joey Colombo, the artist known as JdotColombo behind Money Trees Cannabis.

"The reason we want to do that is we just want to push one thing," Scott said. "People have kind of gotten confused in the past on who's a part of it, or who did what so that just can be all

of us. Rob is the breeder behind it, I'm the grower, and Joey, he's gonna do all the badass art that he does like make bag designs and animations, and we think it's gonna be a pretty epic concept.

"With Avantt, what we're doing is all the crosses and dope strains that we've made over the years, we're going to cross them all. We're popping thousands of seeds, and we're trying to find some of the dopest genetics and different terpene profiles and have, like, six to eight strains. What me and Rob do is try to find different lines where it's completely different terp profiles and then keep working those lines. Something we kind of just learned with the RS-11 is when we dropped Zoap, the 11 started to fade a little bit. So now when we find something, and we've got so many of them, we can start ramping those up and start phasing the old ones out."

If there's one thing we know about the way the industry moves, it's that you're only as good as your latest product.

"We've got to stay ahead of the game," Scott said. "Once a strain starts dying out, we already have the new production in heavy flow. With what we've got going on with the brand right now, we need to focus on the highest quality there is. Otherwise, it's work. If you walk into a 50-, or 100-light room, and you see six different badass flavors that are about to come down, and they're all purpled out, smelling amazing. Just walking through one of those rooms puts a big smile on my face." **HT**



wizard-trees.com







FIG FARMS KEEPS THINGS WEIRD

A LOOK INSIDE THE EXTENSIVE BREEDING PROCESS AT THE
AWARD-WINNING CANNABIS CULTIVATOR.

BY ELLEN HOLLAND

PHOTOS BY CHRIS ROMAINE, KANDID KUSH, @KANDIDKUSH



STRAIN:
ANIMAL FACE

BREEDER:
SEED JUNKY GENETICS

LINEAGE:
FACE OFF OG X ANIMAL
MINTS

TASTING NOTES:
KIWI, BLACK LICORICE,
PAINT THINNER, YELLOW
FRUIT LOOPS

W

When Fig Farms took first place at the 2017 NorCal Cannabis Cup, it was with the flowers from a single plant. That Banana Fig, a cross of Purple Fig with Banana Split, was exceptional enough to propel the company to what it has become today—one of the most well-respected and prolific creators of new kinds of cannabis. I would be remiss not to say upfront that the unique cultivars put out by Fig Farms rank among the most exquisite indoor pot I’ve ever smoked.

“Winning that cup was special to us,” Keith Healy tells me from an office within his Oakland, California grow facility. “It changed our lives. The next day we got offered this space.”

And the space, which Healy and his wife and business partner Chloe run together, is an incredibly impressive operation. Across from the large boardroom table where we are sitting is a fridge filled with 12 different kinds of cannabis pollen, and Chief Sales Officer Mike Doten is pulling large plastic bags of yet-to-be-released strain combinations for me to examine and smell. Fig Farms is not only a cannabis flower brand, it’s also the birthplace of new types of pot through its extensive breeding program.

“Every two-and-a-half, three months, we’re popping 500 seeds,” Keith says. “We try to pop about at least 50% ours and 50% somebody else’s. I think that the biggest hurdle is that we might find something that’s extremely special to us but doesn’t have the highest THC. Or we find things that are just so special like right now we’re dealing with like 20 plants where we can’t decide which one we’re going to put in the marketplace.”

LUCID BLUE



**“LIKE A CHEF
THAT DOESN’T
EAT HIS FOOD
OR A WINEMAKER
THAT DOESN’T
DRINK HIS WINE,
A BREEDER AND
POPPER THAT
DOESN’T SMOKE
THEIR POT,
THAT’S A RED
FLAG.”**

- KEITH HEALY

Keith admits he has a hoarding problem when it comes to amassing cannabis genetics. The Fig Farms room for mother plants contains more than 300 different types of marijuana. When we walk inside this room while touring the facility, I don’t even initially spot a few people because they are hidden behind a wall of pot plants.

“One of [the phenotypes we grow] may be something that had a really high terpene profile of this one terpene, but the THC [percentage] wasn’t good,” Keith says in explanation of keeping so many mother plants around. “And so we’re waiting until we find the right male to pollinate that female.”



SUNRISE

BIG & BEAUTIFUL

You'll know the Fig Farms flower when you see it. Instead of tight, dense buds, Fig Farm's buds are often shaped like fox-tails, frilly and elongated like a fox's tail. While many growers see this irregular, slender, and taller bud shape as a flaw to correct, the Fig Farms brand values and promotes this shape. The foxtail buds make Fig Farms flowers stand apart in a line-up of more typical cannabis nugs and provide a visual indication of the uniqueness of the cultivars.

"The cool thing about us is that we are unique and not afraid to be unique," Keith says.

Stepping into one of the grow rooms at Fig Farms feels like entering a tropical paradise. It's humid and hot, and the air is intensely perfumed with the scent of flowers.

"I think about it like if you were in Hawaii, a plant would express itself really differently than if you were in Northern California," Keith says of the growing environment. "I want a plant to express everything that it has to show. I don't want to suppress it and keep it really cold and have it just kind of tight and squeezed together. I'd rather have it be big and beautiful, and I think the aromas, the flavors, everything comes out more when you're pushing out a plant in a Hawaii-style environment versus a very cold environment."

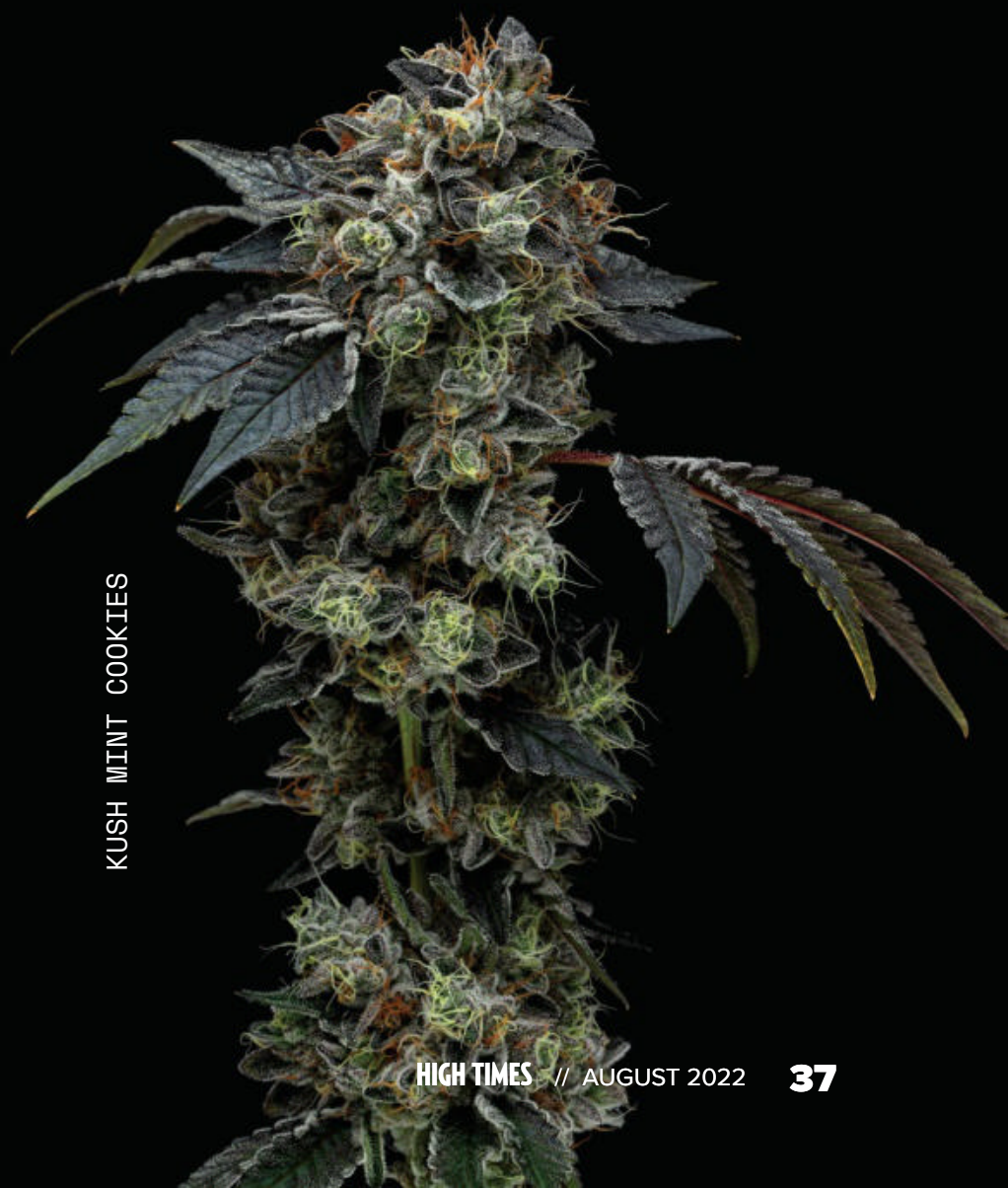
A TREASURE MAP TO INDEPENDENCE

Back around 2014, Keith was growing and selling strains like Gorilla Glue #4 and XJ-13 for two medical marijuana dispensaries, Harborside and the Berkeley Patients Group. Those dispensaries were receiving a lot of Gorilla Glue #4 from different growers, but Keith's stood out. A dispensary employee encouraged him to start branding himself and popping seeds to sell more unique strains.

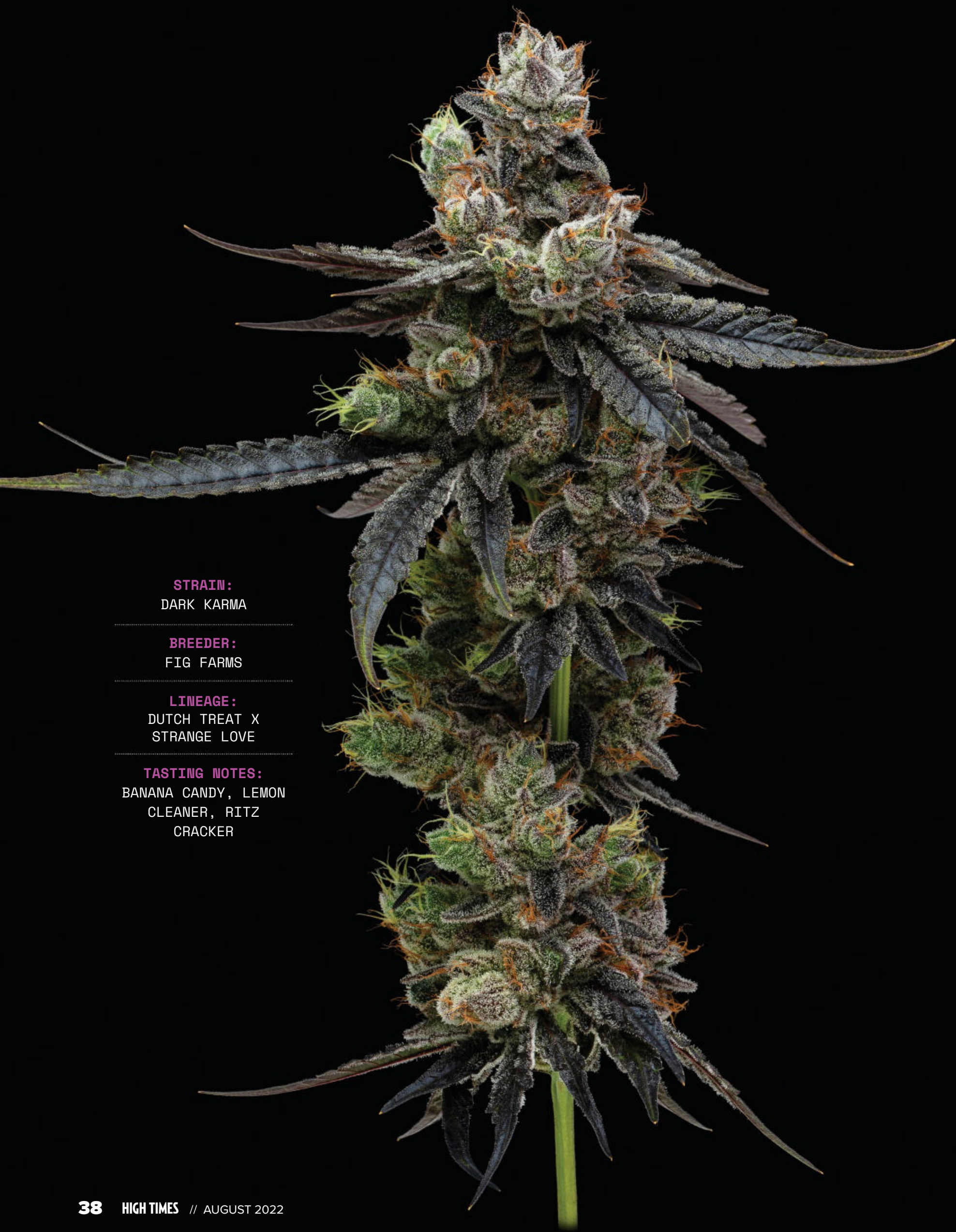
Keith got the breeding bug and began amassing a collection of cannabis genetics in a warehouse. When the DEA raided the neighbor's warehouse, their landlord, who thought he would be doing them a favor, cut down all the plants and filled the space with tomatoes and vegetables. Then Keith and Chloe, eight months pregnant at the time, came upon a scavenger hunt note from their landlord instructing them to go to another location, where they received another scavenger hunt note with a treasure hunt map on it. The motivations behind the landlord's odd method to let them know he had destroyed their plants is unclear.

"Before we know it, we're at some water tower on a hiking trail that we've never been on in our lives and Chloe's like, 'Is he going to stab us?' And I'm like, 'No, this is going to be the best thing,'" Keith says of thinking he might be getting a unique clone cut. "And he comes up to me and he says, 'I killed all your plants.' And Chloe just started crying. I mean, these were things that we had been growing for five or 10 years. Things that we were holding on to that we couldn't have [gotten] anywhere else."

This devastating news started Fig Farms on a path towards creating its own types of cannabis and the discovery of its original cultivars, Purple Fig and Pink Fig. >>



KUSH MINT COOKIES



STRAIN:
DARK KARMA

BREEDER:
FIG FARMS

LINEAGE:
DUTCH TREAT X
STRANGE LOVE

TASTING NOTES:
BANANA CANDY, LEMON
CLEANER, RITZ
CRACKER

STRAIN:
ANIMAL MINTS BX1

BREEDER:
SEED JUNKY GENETICS

LINEAGE:
WEDDING CAKE X ANIMAL
MINTS F1

TASTING NOTES:
HAND SOAP, SHORTBREAD,
TABASCO FLAVORED ICE
CREAM





THE FIG

Keith grew up in Southern California near Figueroa Mountain (located in Santa Barbara County), and when he was in high school, the best cannabis in his area was called “the fig.” In his beginnings as a cannabis breeder, one of his first creations reminded him so much of that taste and aroma profile he remembered that he decided to name the company Fig Farms.

Fig Farms started as a brand name in the medical marijuana marketplace in 2016 and has since expanded from California to Illinois. Initially based out of Sonoma County, when Keith and Chloe entered the Cannabis Cup in 2017, they had just had their second child and Keith wasn’t even sure he wanted to enter the competition because they were so busy raising a family. The cup was before California’s 2018 transition

to an adult-use cannabis market, and when they did decide to go ahead and enter the Banana Fig, which has about 20% THC, the line to enter the cup was around the block.

“Everybody that had a little grow in their two-car garage had a cannabis business,” Keith explains. “[The Banana Fig] is a strain from yesteryear. It doesn’t test high enough to compete in the modern marketplace. It’s something we keep in the mom room to have it for the day where people aren’t so stuck on THC.” >>

STRAIN:
BLUE FACE

BREEDER:
SEED JUNKY GENETICS

LINEAGE:
FACE OFF OG X
ANIMAL MINTS (BLUE
PHENOTYPE)

TASTING NOTES:
FRESHLY RUBBED
ERASER, REDWOOD
BARK, GINGER, WINDOW
CLEANER

“THE COOL THING ABOUT US IS THAT WE ARE UNIQUE AND NOT AFRAID TO BE UNIQUE.”

- KEITH HEALY

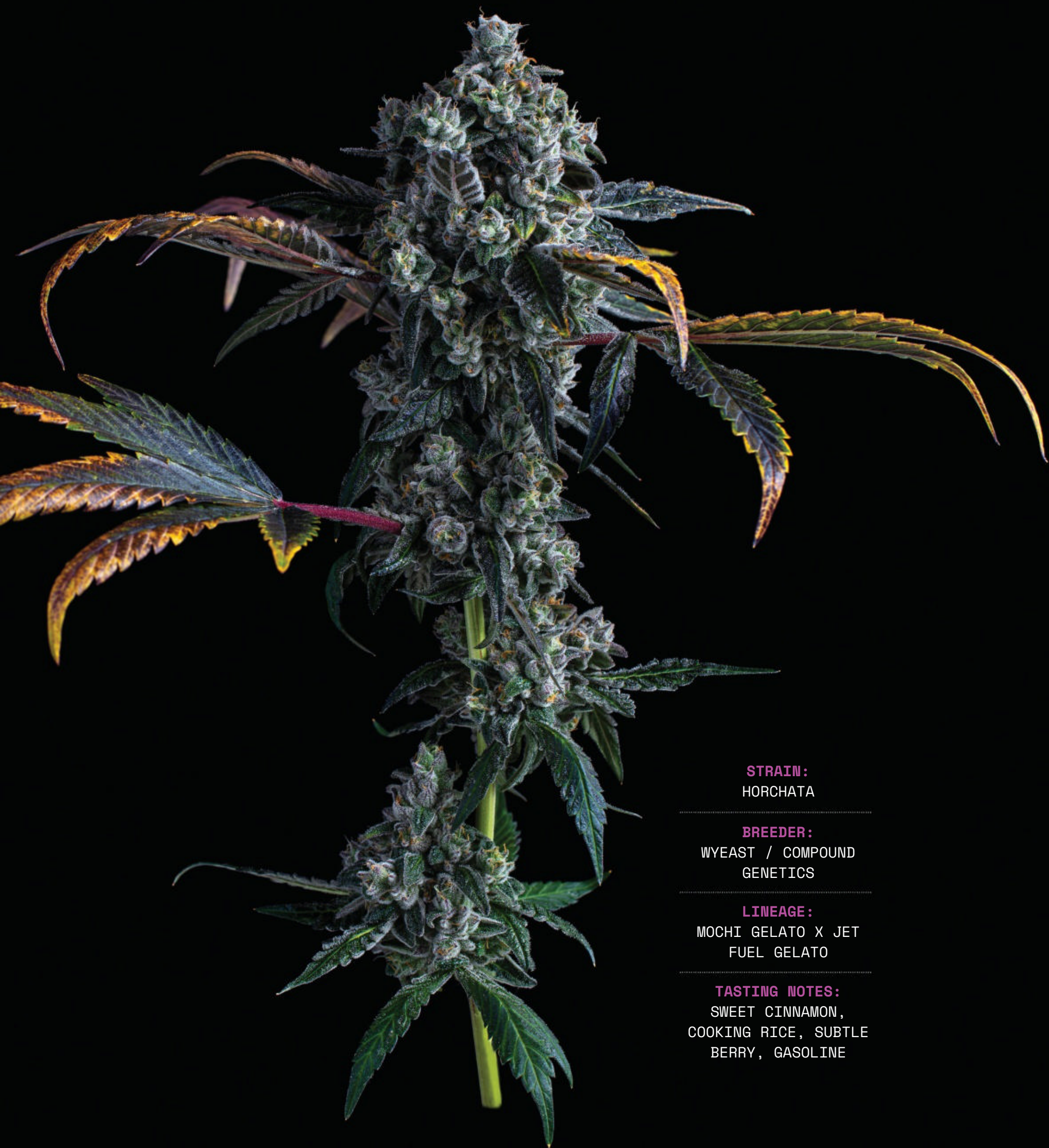


STRAIN:
HOLY MOLY!

BREEDER:
FIG FARMS

LINEAGE:
BANANA FIG X ANIMAL
MINTS 198 #1

TASTING NOTES:
TOOTSIE POP CENTER,
SOOR CHERRY, MOLE
SAUCE



STRAIN:
HORCHATA

BREEDER:
WYEAST / COMPOUND
GENETICS

LINEAGE:
MOCHI GELATO X JET
FUEL GELATO

TASTING NOTES:
SWEET CINNAMON,
COOKING RICE, SUBTLE
BERRY, GASOLINE



STRAIN:
FIGMENT

BREEDER:
FIG FARMS

LINEAGE:
PURPLE FIG X ANIMAL
MINTS 199 #4

TASTING NOTES:
LAVENDER, AMMONIA,
CONFETTI CAKE



THE FIG FARMS CULTIVARS

When it comes to looking for new types of cannabis to release, Keith says, “the weirder, the better.” He’s looking for strange and unique cannabis combinations that put Fig Farms in a different lane than other cannabis cultivators. At the same time, the team at Fig Farms also has fun showing people what they can do with extremely common strains, such as Gelato #41.

“We want to be super unique, but we also want to show what we can do with things that everybody already has,” Keith says.

Fig Farm’s Holy Moly! is one of the more unique strains it has created. On my day’s visit to the grow, Doten pulls some Holy Moly! out to show me. The buds are completely frosted over with trichomes and are such a dark purple amethyst color that they almost look blue.

“I think it’s got sort of a cognac smell. It smells like the inside of a Tootsie Roll pop a bit,” Doten says. “That is a cross of the Cannabis Cup-winning Banana Fig crossed to a male found in an Animal Mints pack from Seed Junky, and miss Chloe made that strain.”

Along with that Tootsie Pop center taste, the tasting notes on this strain include sour cherry and mole sauce.

Next, Doten brings out five different phenotypes of Gelato #41 crossed with LD95 (an I-95 and Legend Dog cross) and I get to play the game of choosing a strain by looking for things like color, structure, and smell. Each of the samples looks and smells incredible. It’s not an easy job.

Choosing which phenotype to develop and put on the market is serious work at Fig Farms. A sample of Orange Cookies crossed with Sherb Crasher bursts with a tangerine aroma so thick my mouth starts to water. All the cannabis I’ve seen in development is worthy of any cannabis connoisseur’s head stash, and the work to create new unique types of cannabis shows no signs of stopping.

“We still have the original Purple Fig from 2015 in our mom room,” Keith says, noting that selecting a strain ultimately comes down to THC percentage and how it smokes. “Like a chef that doesn’t eat his food or a winemaker that doesn’t drink his wine, a breeder and popper that doesn’t smoke their pot, that’s a red flag.” 

“I WANT A PLANT TO EXPRESS EVERYTHING THAT IT HAS TO SHOW. I DON’T WANT TO SUPPRESS IT AND KEEP IT REALLY COLD AND HAVE IT JUST KIND OF TIGHT AND SQUEEZED TOGETHER.”

- KEITH HEALY

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The GREAT SKUNK HUNT

SMOKING ONE OF POT'S
ORIGINAL HYBRIDS IS A JOURNEY THROUGH TIME.

by
ELLEN HOLLAND

photos by
JUSTIN CANNABIS



IN

the 1960s and '70s, humanity finally pulled it together and began hybridizing different types of cannabis. Although use of the plant has been prevalent for thousands of years, it wasn't until this time that cannabis breeders began to take marijuana's original expressions, the landrace cultivars, and blend them together. The incredible diversity of the types of marijuana we have today started with the first few cannabis seed companies and hybrids they created. Skunk #1 is one of the most widely recognized hybrids of those early days of cannabis breeding. An artistic creation that fused together landrace cannabis from different areas of the world, Skunk #1 is legendary pot.

"It's in everything," horticulture authority Ed Rosenthal tells me during a recent smoke session in the sunroom of his publishing headquarters and home.

Together we're traveling through time back to the 1980s. I've brought over a sampling of six Skunk #1 phenotypes grown by Frank at Purple Caper Seeds in his epic 2022 Skunk hunt. Frank grew out 25 different packs of Skunk #1 seeds, some more than 20 years old, on a quest for the original flavor he loved when he first started smoking pot in the late '80s.

"It's been over 20 years now I haven't had that flavor," Frank says of his quest to bring back the weed he remembers. "First I started sniffing around. I heard the buzz that everybody's starting to talk about Skunk again. I've always missed it, but I haven't tried to bring it back. It's expensive [to do], and there wasn't a demand. And I talked to my people in Canada, I talked to my people in Amsterdam and asked them if there were any old packs in their freezers."

Eventually, Frank was able to collect a lineup of seeds to grow fabled classics spread across the centerfolds of this very magazine in the '80s and '90s: Green House Seeds' Exodus Cheese, Nirvana Super Skunk, Paradise Seeds Original Cheese (IBL), Dutch Passion's Skunk #1, and Skunk #1 from Sensi Seeds. Amsterdam-based seed companies like Dutch Passion and Sensi Seeds, which received the Skunk genetics in the 1980s, still sell Skunk #1 seed packs to this day.



BURNT RUBBER

A MARIJUANA MARKETING MILESTONE

The winner of the first *High Times* Cannabis Cup in the Netherlands in 1987, Skunk #1 was proliferated by a guy whom cannabis lore calls "Sam the Skunkman," but whose real name is Dave Watson. Skunk #1 is a combination of two South American landraces, Acapulco Gold and Colombian Gold, as well as an Afghani. Rosenthal suspects some Thai may also be in the cross, but this has never been publicly acknowledged.

When this cultivar got into the hands of Watson at Sacred Seeds Collective in Santa Cruz, California, the genetics were developed and stabilized through inbreeding (in cannabis that generally means crossing the plant back with itself to maintain its traits in future offspring). As part of the great exchange that shaped the world of cannabis cultivars at that time—the fusion of minds and marijuana from California and Amsterdam—Watson brought Skunk #1 from California to Holland in 1985. By the late '80s, it was in many seed banks throughout Holland.

The phenotypes Rosenthal and I are sampling have names that sound terrible: Fresh Kill, Rotten Carcass, Vomit, Burnt Rubber, Donkey Dick, and least offensively, Cheese. But they don't have the acidic, rotten smell of a skunk's spray or any of the other noxious odors their names suggest. They smell floral, some are decidedly cheesy, and they taste sweet. Rosenthal explains that Watson naming the strain Skunk #1 was an attempt to capitalize on the popularity of a type of cannabis around in the 1970s, which actually smelled like a skunk. >>



SUPER SKUNK



SKUNK
PHENOTYPES
GROWING
AT HAZE
DISPENSARY

"PEOPLE WOULD SAY, 'IS THERE A DEAD BODY OR
A SKUNK OR SOMETHING AROUND?'
THAT'S WHAT THE
**ORIGINAL SKUNKS
SMELLED LIKE.**
THAT'S WHY THEY WERE CALLED SKUNKS." - ED ROSENTHAL

"People would say, 'Is there a dead body or a skunk or something around? That's what the original skunks smelled like. That's why they were called skunks,' Rosenthal says. "So when [Watson] named it Skunk, I mean there's no right or wrong on this, but it wasn't what the animal smelled like."

Recently scientists at ABSTRAX, a laboratory devoted to terpene research and botanical extraction, pinpointed the origins of that skunky, gasoline-like scent and, as it turns out, it comes from a class of compounds in cannabis that has just been discovered, volatile sulfuric compounds (VSCs). The ABSTRAX study, which appeared in the *American Chemical Society* journal, shows that the skunky

smell in cannabis also has similarities to the heady, pungent smell of garlic.

"When people are referring to the skunky/gassy scent of cannabis they are actually smelling this class of VSCs that we are referring to in the industry as cannasulfur compounds," explains T.J. Martin, VP of Research and Development at ABSTRAX.

"While they are not the same identical compounds in garlic, they have very similar structures and an eerily similar family of VSCs. The main difference is that the structure of cannabis VSCs contain what are called prenyl groups (i.e. prenyl thiol, diphenyl sulfide, etc.) and garlic has allyl groups (i.e. allyl thiol, diallyl sulfide, etc.).

"What makes it so interesting is that chemically they may be different, but they are also very similar, and they follow the same trend. Current research in garlic shows that its VSCs may possibly contribute to the cardiovascular and proposed anti-cancerous benefits found in garlic. With these families being so similar, with just a small minor change, we were wondering if maybe this contributes to some of the medicinal benefits of cannabis."

At our sunroom smoke sesh, Rosenthal says the study shows Afghan Skunk (aka Afghani Skunk) had a lot of cannasulfurs in it.

"You'd have a bag of it, you'd open the bag, close the bag, the room would stink, you couldn't get the smell out of the room," Rosenthal says of Afghan Skunk. "I haven't seen that in 15 or 20 years."

For Rosenthal, Skunk #1 itself is decidedly more common. He says he last smoked Skunk #1, a strain that came out when I was still a young child that I've never tried until now, two months ago. Like White Widow, it was widely used for breeding. When Rosenthal and other cannabis experts I've spoken to in the past wax nostalgic about a strain from yesteryear, it's usually Northern Lights #5 x Haze (aka NL #5 Haze). Northern Lights #5 is Afghani x Thai, and NL #5 Haze combines that strain pairing with the Haze that came out of Santa Cruz in the 1960s.

"The reason you don't see NL #5 Haze is because it's very difficult to grow indoors because it takes so much longer," Rosenthal says of those long-flowering equatorial sativa genetics present in the Haze family. "It takes a long time to finish, and it's a moderate yield. But if you're growing outdoors like in Southern California, that would be a great variety to grow. It has an unbelievably zonky high, [With NL #5 x Haze] like you say, 'Oh, that's what my brain was looking for.'"

Together Haze, Skunk #1, and Northern Lights #5 are the first main types of hybrid cannabis and, therefore, some most influential types of weed of all time. >>



DONKEY DICK



THESE SEEDS WERE GROWN OUT ON THE HUNT TO FIND THE BEST SKUNK #1 PHENOTYPE.

SKUNK #1 IN 2022

To rediscover the Skunk #1 experiences of his youth Purple Caper's Frank gathered the seeds, including 1996 seeds from expert grower and cannabis author Mel Frank, and grew them out at Haze Dispensary in San Jose, California.

"We procured the best 25 packs of Skunk that we could find and popped them," Frank says. "Of over 200 seeds, we found 70 keeper females and 20 keeper males, 90 plants total. Out of those 90 plants, 10 males and 10 female keepers are isolated."

Those 10 female plants are now being tested in clone and breeding projects in all types of growing environments, outdoor full-term, light-dep, and indoors. The final plants Frank will use for Purple Caper's planned Skunk #1 seed release will be from one male and six females.

"The keepers we found are better than expected," Frank says. "These had long, big colas, especially the Donkey Dick. I mean, that plant had just three branches. Each one had a 24-inch cola, like the size of a baseball bat almost. The Donkey Dick was just a beautiful plant. It's been so long since I've seen that."

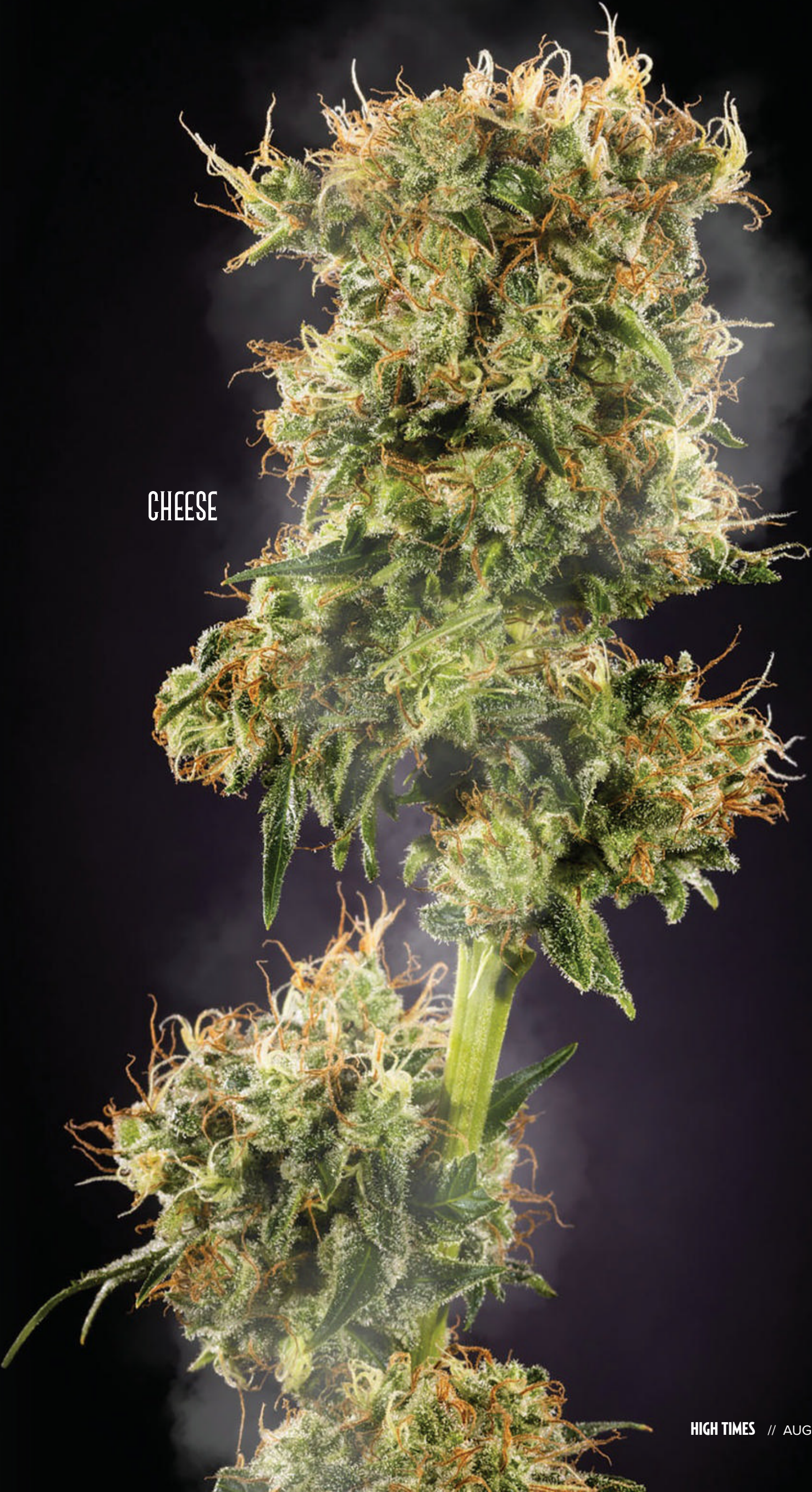
After we share a laugh about the ridiculous names of the Skunk phenos, Frank further explains how breeding cannabis, or in this case resurrecting a strain from the past, is an extensive process of selection. For the final stages of his epic Skunk hunt, Frank will cross one male plant with six female plants with the

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intention of growing an additional 300 phenotypes. The hope is to bring back the strain he's loved and lost.

"I want to resurrect it, and I want to have the flagship version of it. I don't want anybody to have a better Skunk," he says. **HT**



CHEESE



THE REIGNING KING OF CANNABIS

Catching up with Arjan Ekam,
the head of Green House Seed Company.

by Jimi Devine

photos courtesy of
Green House Seed Company



Arjan Roskam on
an adventure for
Strain Hunters.

The world of modern cannabis genetics can tend to feel like it's dedicated to the hype of the moment, but Green House Seed Company founder Arjan Roskam taps into cannabis genetics at the source.

Be it the hills of South America or the rivers of Africa, Roskam has spent much of his life hunting the best genetics in the world since he opened his first Amsterdam, Netherlands coffeeshop in 1992. This would lead to the breeding work that ended up taking home a ton of trophies.

Roskam first found his way onto the Cannabis Cup podium in 1993, placing second with Silver Pearl and then again placing second for Citral Skunk in 1994. But 1995 would be the year he found his way to the podium with White Widow, kicking off the legend of a strain that carries weight to this day, even if we never see it anymore.

After another runner-up finish in 1997, the era of Super Silver Haze would kick off with its 1998 victory. The next year, in 1999, it would be the first strain to win back-to-back Cannabis Cups. Things went well the next few years, with another win in 2003 for Hawaiian Snow and Arjan's Ultra Haze climbing to the top in second place in 2005 before winning in 2006.

Green House Seed Company's Super Lemon Haze went on to back-to-back Cannabis Cup wins in 2008 and 2009. It was arguably the strain Americans were the most exposed to from Green House through the 2010s, as there were some exceptional phenotypes going around Northern California. The Village, half of Symbiotic Genetics, placed third in the first legal Cannabis Cup in California with Super Lemon Haze in May 2018. Most of the Cannabis Cup podiums would see Green House on them somewhere until Dutch officials started to crack down on the competition and Europe's weed enthusiasm began to move toward Barcelona, Spain, or even Germany, where they are now legally importing medical cannabis from Canada. While Amsterdam is the legendary homeland of cannabis genetics, its glory is a bit more diluted now than in years past.

Thankfully for Amsterdam, Roskam—known as the “king of cannabis”—spent the majority of his life helping build up local lore since he opened his first coffeeshop at age 21. But the world closing due to the COVID-19 pandemic, just one month before his 50th birthday, would throw a wrench in his adventures.

However, when we met with Roskam at Hall of Flowers in Palm Springs, California, the world was feeling more open than ever—and Roskam was taking full advantage of that fact as he bounced around the globe in the months leading up to the California event.

“We are super, super busy. We just made a



Harvest time is the best part of the year.

new movie in Africa,” Roskam told *High Times*.

As a part of the *Strain Hunters* cannabis documentary series, Roskam and his team traveled roughly 100 miles by boat on an African river over seven days last summer.

“The last six weeks, I’ve been doing shows in Barcelona, then we did Cape Town, then we did Rome, and we did Bologna, then we went to the 420 Golden Cup in Colombia in Santa Marta.”

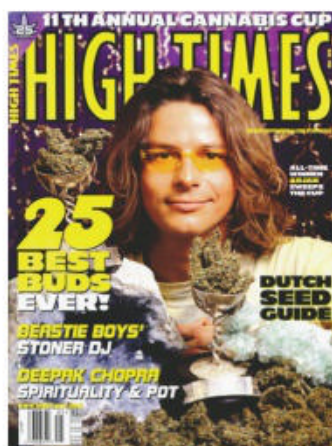
We asked Roskam if the pandemic afforded him time to go back into his genetics collection and search for new winners and breeding stock. He explained his team was still able to “hunt 100,000 seeds at a time” at their operation in the Democratic Republic of Congo. He also said there was plenty of work to be done at home too, and the pandemic was the perfect chance to reimagine Green House coffeeshops.

“The moment COVID hit Holland, I’m talking about March or February 2020, we all sat in the office and couldn’t go nowhere. We knew this [pandemic] was gonna take one to two years,” Roskam said. “We did a remodel of our coffeeshops. We have five in Amsterdam, we had four and we bought another one. So we decided to remodel all the Green House coffeeshops. We took six weeks for each coffeeshop, and they look amazing now.”

With no coffeeshops to run, the coffeeshop staff wanted to help with the rebuild. The bouncer became one of the painters. One of the guys had some plastering experience. They worked 10-hour days going from shop to shop. Much of the time, it was a full rebuild, even including new walls to go with the updated floors, lights, and marble. >>



TOP:
High Times May 1995
issue cover.



BOTTOM:
High Times May 1999
issue cover.

“We have 40 glasshouses across seven valleys. And in those seven valleys, we flower out our phenos that we hunt. That creates the possibilities we have that nobody else does.”
- Arjan Roskam



“In agriculture purposes, it’s scientifically known that you need 10,000 plants to find one. Nobody can do that in America. That’s why there’s a lot of public companies. That’s the difference between Green House Seed Company and others.”

- Arjan Roskam



GREEN HOUSE X COMPOUND GENETICS

We held our interview with Roskam in the Compound Genetics booth at Hall of Flowers while he and Green House CEO Joa Helms met with American fans. Roskam explained that Green House has some future plans lined up with Compound Genetics.

“We’re going to use some of our genetics with their genetics,” Roskam said. “So we’re looking at crossing the famous Exodus Cheese and some other things that we can’t speak about right now.”

Christopher Lynch, founder of Compound Genetics, told *High Times* he is excited to work with Roskam.

“Our connection with Arjan is in a league of its own,” Lynch said. “His knowledge of cannabis, worldwide experiences with the plant, and professional demeanor is truly impressive. I’m beyond excited for the Green House Seed Co. x Compound Genetics collaboration.”

HYPE VS. HERITAGE

Lynch and his company have played a big role in determining the exciting weed trends in recent years. We asked Roskam how Holland responded to the wave of dessert weed that first started coming out of Northern California just over a decade ago as Cookies started to take off.

“It’s still only 15% of everything [in Holland],” Roskam said. “Because people cannot pay it. And 15% can pay the prices of \$18 to \$30 for a gram. So most of the people buy the normal stuff. And in Europe, it’s kind of a shame, because the American imports are just much more expensive. Of course, that will change in the future.”

Roskam has had plenty of his own “hype” strains over the years. Two new flavors he hopes his fans will add to the list are Fullgas and Lemon Orange. On top of the 12 strains he’d already launched in 2022 by the time we chatted, he also had three new Banana strains that would be



Roskam examines a plant.

dropping in the weeks to follow.

Roskam noted that before the last four years that he has spent bouncing around Canada and Africa, he’s spent another eight in the bush. Now he’s taking a little bit of a pause to focus on everything he’s

▼ Persian Pie



▼ Full Gas





▲ Lemon Orange



▲ Pulp Friction

collected over the years.

“We’re going full gas on new genetics,” Roskam said of their efforts. “There are four places in the world where we work besides the Congo. We work in Columbia, Denmark, Spain, and America. So we have a lot of opportunities to make new genetics, and we think Green House Seed Company, with all our knowledge and experience

no?” Roskam replied. “More people makes everyone more happy because there are more varieties.”

As for hype surrounding strains, we asked Roskam if he has ever had concerns about everyone growing the same types of cannabis because of their popularity, which in turn narrows down the flavors available in the marketplace. He laughed

this. There’s a lot of that. Listen, they’re great strains. I still consider Hawaiian Snow the best strain in the world.”

As he spent the nights in Palm Springs socializing with some of the most influential people in cannabis, many of them agreed with his opinion of the Hawaiian Snow or at least agreed that it is a contender in the conversation.

“We like to come with new things, strange tastes, and bring new genetics to the world.”

- Arjan Roskam

and guys around us, we can be very soon [a] leader again in the seed market, you know?”

We asked if it ever felt like there were just more places for people to spend their money over the last decade, as opposed to Green House falling off the mountaintop.

“Sure, which is great for the industry,

and saw the premise as a very American problem. Roskam believes that there are a lot of great strains in America, but said in the rest of the world, there are even greater strains.

He said most American genetics come from four breeding lines.

“There’s a lot of Kush. There’s a lot of

“If you and your wife go out to the restaurant with friends, you get all the food and you put it out in the middle of the table. Why would you narrow yourself down to one variety? Do you eat the same food every day? Do you drink the same wine? Some people do, but these are not people that enjoy life,” Roskam stressed. >>

GREEN HOUSE'S GENETIC LIBRARY

The conversation then moved to how many genetic lines Green House is able to work on at once. Given Green House's multi-decade success, Roskam said it's a lot. He argues that thanks to a trick developed in-house over the years, he's able to understand a lot about a plant's expression over the course of two months. He boasts that he can even pick up on traits passed down from parents and grandparents.

"We like to come with new things, strange tastes, and bring new genetics to the world," Roskam said.

One of the funniest things about American breeding for the Green House team is how many people have used Super Lemon Haze over the years in their own work. He notes that some breeders are openly selling it now, which they really appreciate. Roskam wouldn't mention any names but shared that they're using Green House genetics, and he plans to use their genetics in the future.

"And this is great. Why not, you know?" Roskam said. "The Lemon Orange, we used a seed from Crockett [Family Farms] with my Super Lemon in it," Roskam said. "Cloud Walker, we used our Punta Roja, which we scouted in our movie with Mendobreath. So yeah, we are mixing these days, but we are putting the pure genes in to make sure it's strong. I think that's really important."

He argued that you're less likely to



Finding cannabis and getting to know people across the globe.

see the plants impacted by diseases with sturdier genetics. He also contends you see less powdery mildew when the plants are properly cared for.

When asked what kind of technology has made his life the easiest over the last decade, he shook his head, noting that it wasn't really a technology issue once you got down to what works.

"Listen, from the bottom of my heart, you can only do a really great job with huge fields," he replied. "Nobody has that in America because everybody has an investor, and the investor wants to see his return by profiting on every square foot."

Roskam, on the other hand, is in a very different situation. Green House's Africa setup allows them to pop 20,000

to 40,000 seeds at a time on the quest for true genetic outliers.

"We have 40 glasshouses across seven valleys," Roskam said. "And in those seven valleys, we flower out our phenos that we hunt. That creates the possibilities we have that nobody else does. In agriculture purposes, it's scientifically known that you need 10,000 plants to find one. Nobody can do that in America. That's why there's a lot of public companies. That's the difference between Green House Seed Company and others."

As for how stable American seed companies are compared to their European peers, it depends on how you look at it. Roskam said, of course, some Dutch lines are very strong after 30 years of work.

"And don't forget we are Dutch farmers. Seventy percent of all the world's agricultural seeds come from Holland," Roskam said. "The whole glasshouse industry comes from Holland. We are farmers. We are simple farmers. But we are very good farmers."

He conceded there are many more possibilities in America because cannabis is legal in many states.

"But still here in Holland, even though we are totally illegal, we have big places in Africa and Morocco where you are able to do a very, very great job," he said. **HT**

The hunt continues.



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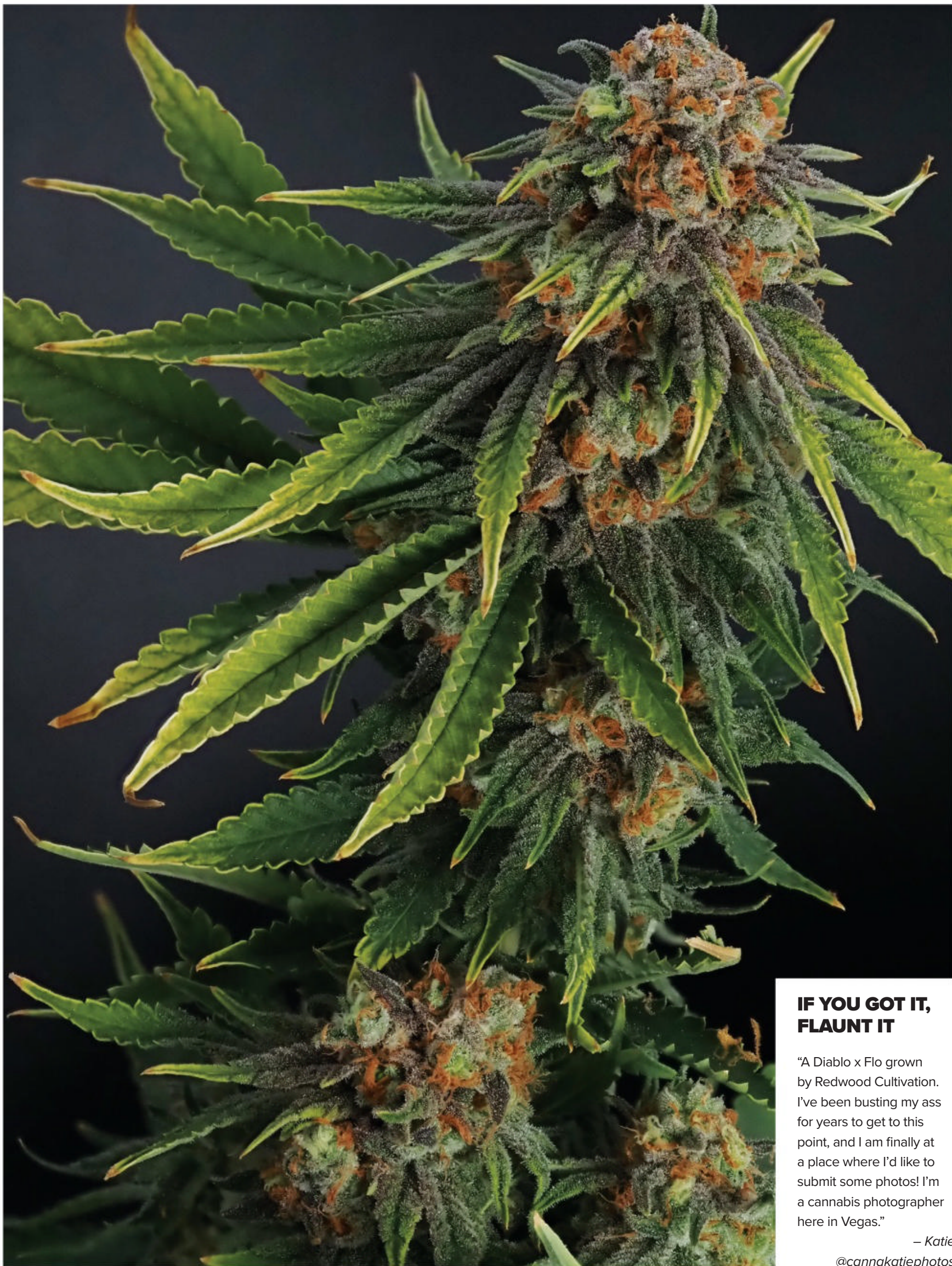
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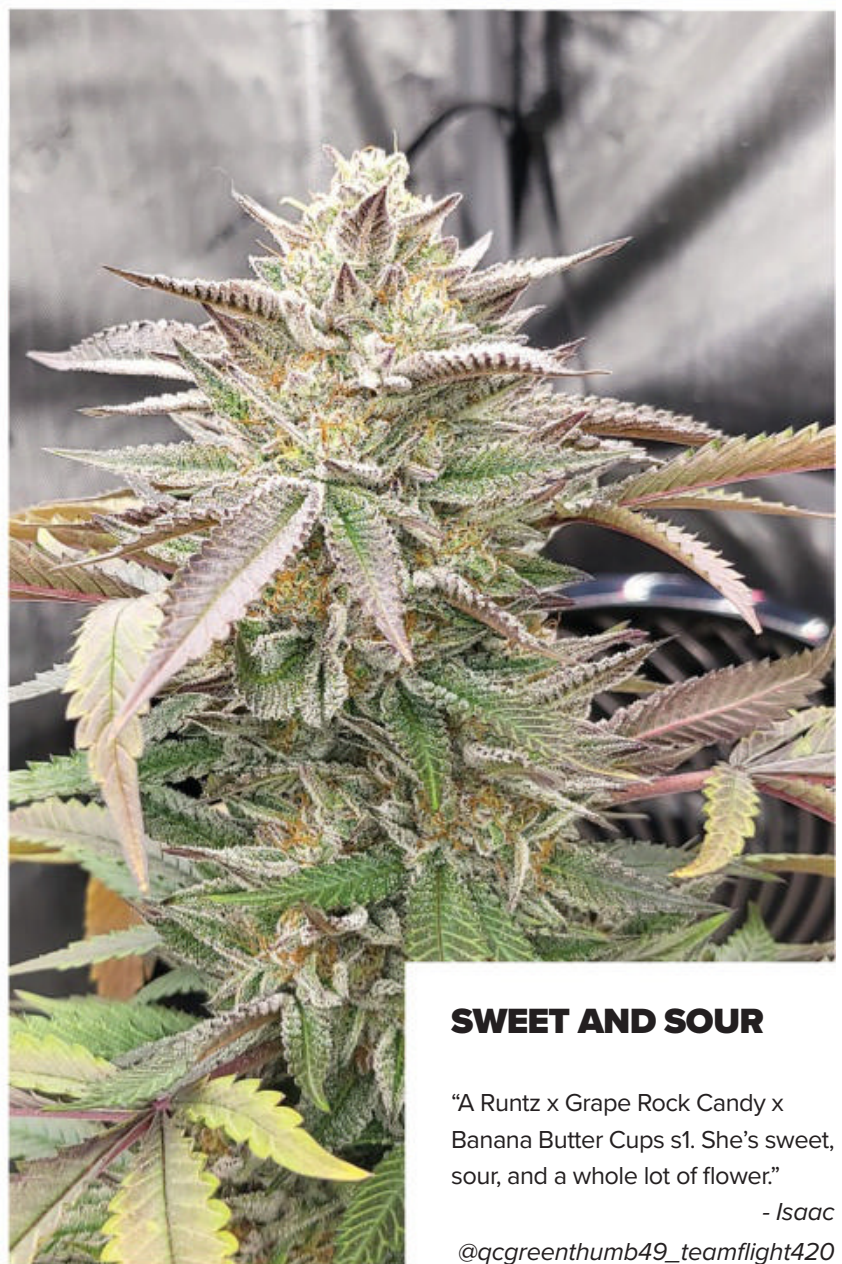
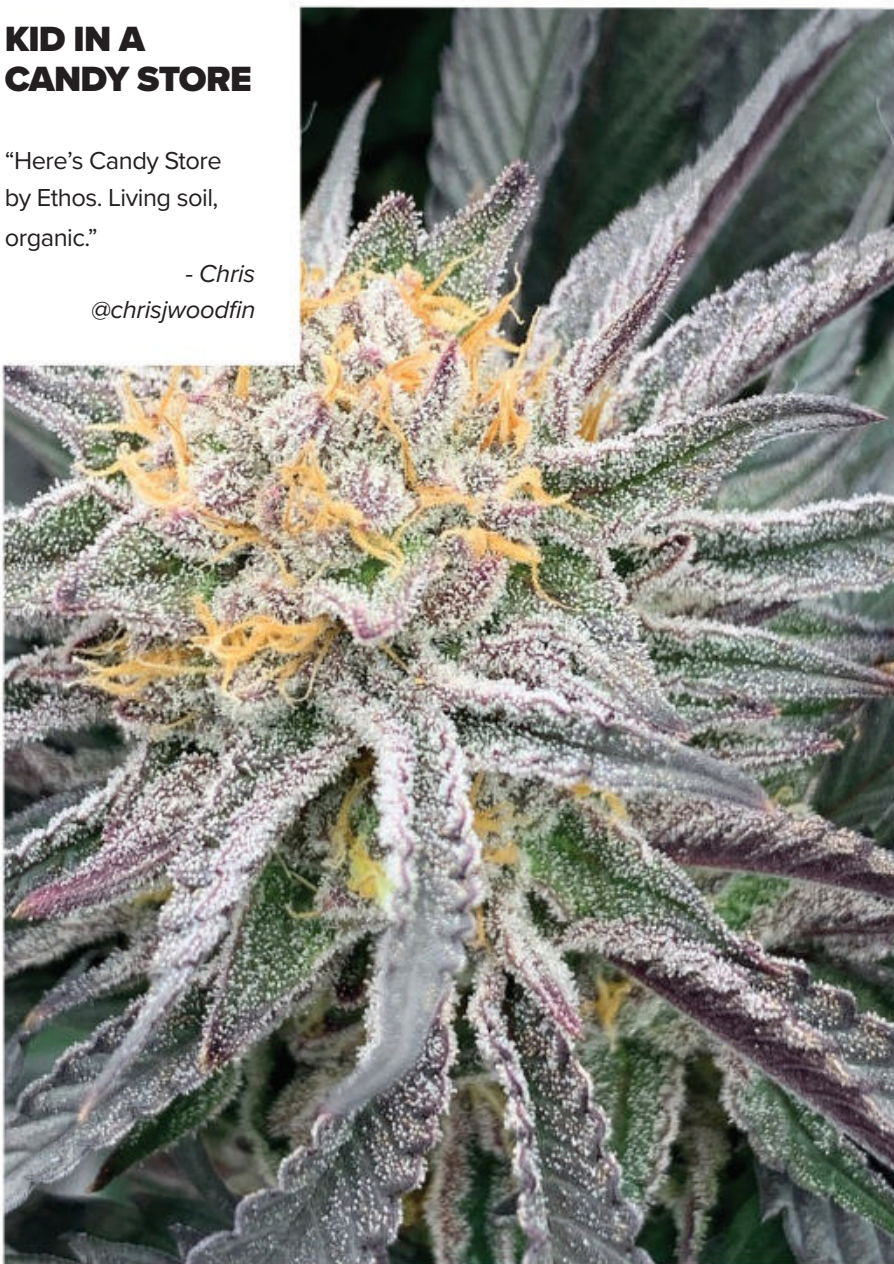
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SWEET AND SOUR

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PURPLE RUNTZ
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HIGH TIMES

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ON THE BACK COVER



ILLUSTRATION: PEDRO CORRÊA

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Mark of the Leaf

Both tattoos and cannabis were once seen as taboo, but now they're as mainstream as they come. Over time the connotations of tattoos and cannabis have changed dramatically—and *High Times* asks some tattooed fans what they think of the history of their cannabis ink as a form of advocacy.



80

'The Machine' Keeps the Party Going

Comedian Bert Kreischer, named "The Machine" by members of the Russian Mafia, is a huge fan of cannabis. He shares his first personal experiences with cannabis, why swimming in a speedo while high is so fascinating, and what an after party looks like at Denver, Colorado's Red Rocks Amphitheatre.

90

Weed & Friendship: The Perfect Formula

Machine Gun Kelly and Mod Sun wrote, directed, and starred in *Good Mourning*—a new stoner comedy film about weed and friendship. In this interview, witness this dynamic duo's charismatic partnership as they discuss the film's real-life influences and the differences between making music and making a film.

100

Cannabis in Competition

Anyone can be a *High Times* Cannabis Cup People's Choice Edition judge, and the process is now easier than ever. See what it takes to embark on an experience like no other with a Cannabis Cup Judge Kit, which offers an outstanding collection of your region's most unique cannabis products.

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Make Your Own Magic

The future of edibles lies in small, carefully crafted creations, such as Stephanie Hua's infused marshmallow brand, Mellows. Hua talks about her company's goal to "destigmatize, normalize, and elevate" the edibles experience, and also provides a delectable recipe for infused cardamom caramels.





CANNABIS TATTOOS PLEDGE A PERMANENT ALLEGIANCE TO POT.

BY MIKE ADAMS
ILLUSTRATIONS BY PEDRO CORRÊA



Take a good look around, and you'll be hard-pressed to escape those pretty bastards out there relishing in the buzz that has, over the past two decades or so, made getting tattooed socially acceptable for upstanding law-abiding members of society. Everyone from fat-cat, corporate executives to police officers—you know, the so-called pillars of the community—are now white-knuckling it through augmentations of the flesh in an attempt to show their peers that they are edgy, gosh darn it, and should be, at least in some regard, revered as one of the cool kids.

Long gone are the days when inked appendages were badges of badass almost exclusively carved into the bodies of bikers, sleazy musicians, and ex-cons. Somewhere along the way, pop culture got porked by punk rock and gave birth to a red-eyed love child that looks a heck of a lot like you!

Within America's bizarre movement to express itself, however, where everyone and their mamma is inked-up and sleeved out, there exists an absolute legion of hell-raisers, outlaws, and die-hard stoners forever scarred with various pot-related pigmentations that none of these well-dressed specimens of modern fashion would ever be caught dead with—not in a million years.

In the '70s, the marijuana tattoo, most commonly represented with a shoddy-looking cannabis leaf that appeared as though it resulted in a gnarly staph infection, was perhaps the official symbol of rebellion. People with the cannabis coat of arms were dead-set against the principles of popular opinion. None of them bought into any of that "religion will save humanity" crap, and

they damn sure weren't about to go to work for the man. They didn't subscribe to all of the BS being forced down their throats by the frightened servants of authority. Nope, they lived life by their own set of rules, going against the grain of ongoing cultural brainwashing, both parental and political, while giving the proverbial middle finger to, well, anyone who fucking deserved it.

"From the very first time I smoked weed, I understood why the government was trying to turn the population against it," Steve, a 65-year-old from Springfield, Illinois, tells *High Times*. "Marijuana helped me see through all the lies I was told in school and in the church, which made it clear to me from my early teens that the people of this country would need to fight for it."

Branded with the image of a small, barely legible cannabis leaf on his left forearm, Steve, who remains a loyal advocate for the cannabis cause, is unapologetic about permanently pledging his allegiance to pot. Even if, by his own admission, his ink looks like total dog shit.

"I was like 16, and this dude who had just gotten out of prison was giving people tats in the kitchen at this party," Steve recalls. "He told us that's how he made a living in the pen, so we thought he'd do a good job. He didn't. Mine's all faded now, and people always say I need to get it covered up. Give me a break. It was done with a paperclip and an ink pen. What do you expect? To me, it symbolizes how far this plant has come."



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— SCOTT CAMPBELL



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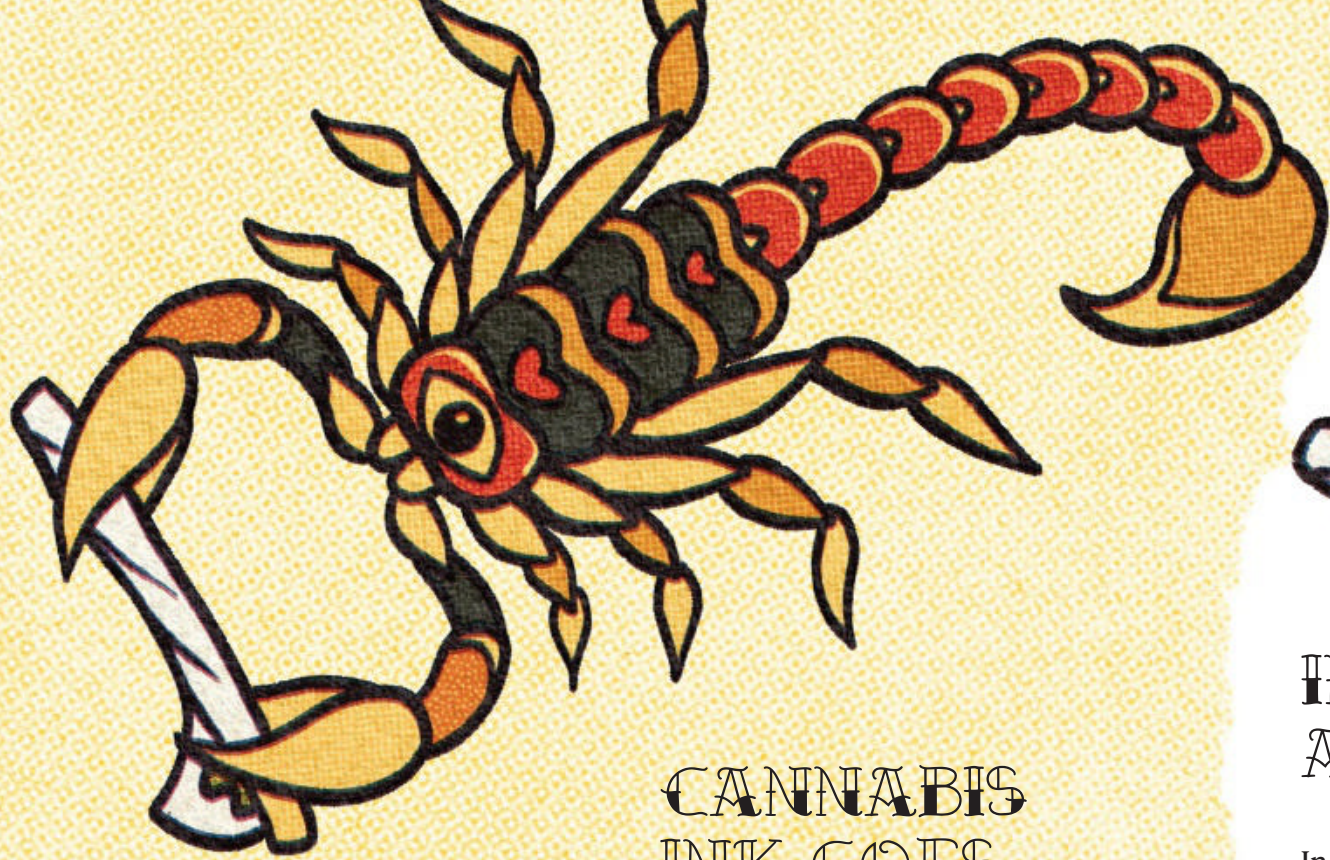
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CANNABIS INK GOES MAINSTREAM

To the supposed do-gooders of society—the ones putting on their best face regardless of how miserable their life by the rules has become—a pot leaf tattoo was considered the unsavory mark of the longhaired, hippie loser. Anyone spotted with one was considered a heathen. The tattooed stoner culture perplexed working-class Americans. After all, how was it so hard to stop listening to the Grateful Dead long enough to get a freakin' job?

The cannabis tattoo has since become less taboo as judgmental society has moved on to slay modern monsters. Cannabis-related ink has risen from the ashes of a subculture and taken on, to some degree, mainstream appeal. Scott Campbell, famed tattoo artist and owner of the legendary Saved Tattoo in Brooklyn, New York, says that people today are just as likely to get etched with the icky in the sanitary conditions of a professional studio than in prison.

“Obviously, with us being in the middle of marijuana legalization, having a pot leaf has less outlaw biker connotations than it did in the '80s,” says Campbell, who, throughout his career, has inked a number of celebrities from Heath Ledger to Penélope Cruz.

Campbell admits there's been a radical shift in the type of person he sees literally wearing this passion for pot on their sleeve.

“There is still a bit of illicit excitement when I see people with pot leaf tattoos. It's not so much, ‘That guy kills people,’ but more like, ‘That's the guy in the PTA meeting I want to sit next to,’” he says.

INK AS ADVOCACY

In many ways, this brand of body modification remains a toking testament of the rowdy. Yessiree, there are still plenty of people out there getting homespun stoner ink as a tribute to a lifestyle that the average citizen may not be privy to. In some cases, the tireless work of cannabis advocacy in areas of the United States where weed remains a no-no is where these initiations of the green go down. Benjamin from Bryan, Ohio, tells us that his one and only cannabis tattoo, a pot leaf on his right shoulder, followed an event to decriminalize marijuana possession.

“I was standing on a table downtown with a guitar in my hands singing *Legalize It* over and over again when this mother came to sign up and said she loves what I'm doing for the cause,” Benjamin tells us.

The woman's son, a local tattoo artist, eventually showed up to extend his support and offered Benjamin some free ink as a token of his appreciation. Of course, he kindly accepted the gent's proposition because, duh.

“I closed up and went over to his house and walked away tatted up,” he says. ➔



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A handwritten signature in white ink, likely belonging to the designer or photographer.

INK IN THE INDUSTRY

Out west, where advocacy and capitalism have collided, cannabis tats are, at times, calling cards of the industry. Kelly, a 53-year-old grower from Salem, Oregon, has one that she says was conjured up one night in the spirit of the age-old motto: sex sells. She decided to get inked in an elevated state of mind as she plotted a move to Eugene, Oregon, to get into the cultivation sect. In business, location is everything, and weed is no exception. So, as a going-away present, Kelly pulled up her shirt and had her dedication to the doob marked on her boobs, of all places.

"I had [my artist] tattoo weed leaves on my breasts because, in Eugene, it is legal for females to go outside and be free to be topless," Kelly tells us, adding that she thought it was a sure thing from a marketing standpoint. "Any advertising is good if it's nipples and weed!"

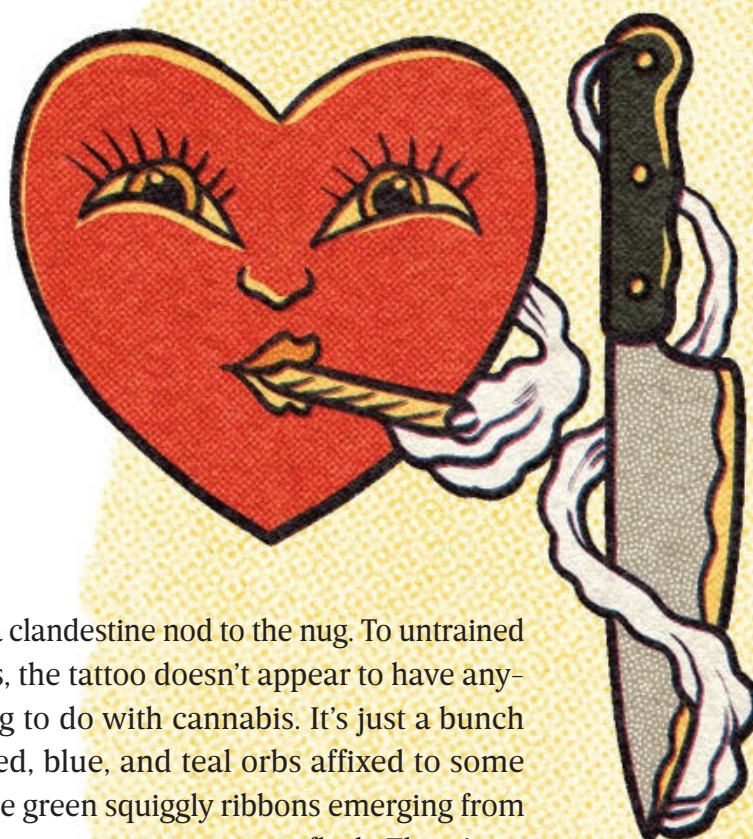
"THERE IS STILL A BIT OF ILLICIT EXCITEMENT WHEN I SEE PEOPLE WITH POT LEAF TATTOOS. IT'S NOT SO MUCH, 'THAT GUY KILLS PEOPLE,' BUT MORE LIKE, 'THAT'S THE GUY IN THE PTA MEETING I WANT TO SIT NEXT TO.'"

— SCOTT CAMPBELL



HIDDEN HOMAGES

While wanting to be branded with an homage to the herb, many refuse to give it reverence with a simple pot leaf. For advocates like Gayle from Greenville, South Carolina, the more traditional designs are too generic. Rather than the leaf or even the molecular structure of tetrahydrocannabinol, arguably the next most popular breed of weed art, she opted for one that portrays the beauty of the cannabis plant under a microscope.



It's a clandestine nod to the nug. To untrained eyes, the tattoo doesn't appear to have anything to do with cannabis. It's just a bunch of red, blue, and teal orbs affixed to some slime green squiggly ribbons emerging from

torn flesh. There's no way it could ever be used by law enforcement to establish reasonable suspicion.

"One day, it just hit me that cannabis, from a scientific view, was the tattoo I was supposed to get," Gayle told us. "It's different from the average pot tattoo."

A BADGE OF HONOR

There are times, though, when the tattoos of our past become indiscretions of youth. They are often cruel reminders that we're getting older and, of no fault of our own, have outgrown the things we once adored and thought were cool. The names of lost love, symbols of political alignments in which we no longer believe, and perhaps even a silly cartoon character. Inked nostalgia is a bitch. It tells everyone we know that there is indeed a body buried out there somewhere. But we've lived and learned and, the devil willing, we'll live some more.

The ink of yesteryear, however, will survive the floods. Perhaps that is why the tattoo removal industry will reach nearly \$800 million by 2027. Nobody wants living proof that they were ever that foolish. The stoner with the marijuana tattoo, however, isn't one steeped in regret. That badge, regardless of its quality or style, remains, presumably from here on out, the highest living honor.

"I can honestly say I have never covered up a pot leaf tattoo," Campbell says. "Anyone who was brazen enough to get it tattooed before the current cannabis-friendly climate is probably enjoying being able to wear it without having their bag searched every time they go through customs." HT





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'The

Machine'

Keeps

the

Party

Going

A photograph of a man from the chest up, wearing a black fedora-style hat. He is shirtless, showing his hairy chest and a gold chain necklace. A hand is resting on his right shoulder. The background is a dark, textured wall.

**Bert Kreischer
just wants to get
high and hug.**

by Ali Lerman



Crusher of irreverent comedy and podcasts, master storyteller, and the king of all parties, Bert Kreischer is a man of many hats—and it would seem,

few shirts. There are numerous things that keep “The Machine” running, and one of them happens to be that sweet, sweet green (although he prefers his green in a shade of Blue Dream). We sense he’s down for more than just that though because, let’s be real, what *isn’t* this man down for?

Traveling across the country on *The Bertie Boy Tour* while also recording his popular podcasts *Bertcast* and *2 Bears 1 Cave* (co-hosted by Tom Segura), Kreischer is partying and puffing the whole way. Before his stops in Colorado and Canada, this insanely busy bear made time to chat with *High Times* about his weed preferences, high hobbies, and cringeworthy cannabis memories. Spoiler: You’re gonna want his life. >>



**“I have my
own weed, and I
have a certain strain that
I like, which is Blue
Dream.
It makes me feel very
comfortable. It makes me
feel relaxed, so I can
sleep better too.”**

- Bert Kreischer

High Times: How old were you the first time you smoked weed, and how did you get it?

Bert Kreischer: I was 15 years old. We went to a pool hall in West Tampa, [Florida] and we bought weed from a big Native American dude. It's so funny because nowadays, I look back and think it was so hard to get back then. We walked to a pool hall, and my buddy Sal went in. I don't even know how we knew that we could get it from that guy. Back then, it was almost like panning for gold. You go in there like, "Does anyone have weed in here?" It's that fucking crazy.

Oh yeah, back then, it was like, "My friend's third cousin said if you ask for Earl you can get a 40 and a dime bag." So we'd drive an hour away for "Earl." Do you remember the first song that you got high to?

Yup! Pink Floyd's *Comfortably Numb*. We planned it! We went to my friend's house and turned on Pink Floyd because we were told that's what you get high to. So, we smoked weed, and I waited for the song to get better. All I knew was that the song was supposed to get fucking good! I didn't get high the first time because it didn't work. Everyone was like, "Yeah, you don't get high your first time. It's your second time or third time." My buddy came in and was like, "It's my third time, and I'm really high." I was like, "Oh man! I can't wait until I'm three times in!" It's so crazy because we did all the stereotype things you "should" do if you're smoking weed. It was all stuff someone's older brother had done. My buddy was like, "Hey, if I put this jar over my head, you won't hear me speak." Then, as he pretended to put a jar over his head, he'd stop talking, and we'd all laugh at the dumbest fucking joke because we thought, I guess, we're supposed to laugh.

When did your "third time" finally hit?

I smoked weed a bunch from freshman to sophomore year. It wasn't until my junior year of high school that I got really fucking high. Like, really high where I had a panic attack and thought, "Oh fuck. This is a drug." I was like, "Oh shit, it's working this time. I can't feel my face." We rolled the joint out of the back pages of the *Bible*, and I was like, "God's getting even with me! Fuck!"

Good God. Literally. What's the highest you've been as an adult, and how did you get there?

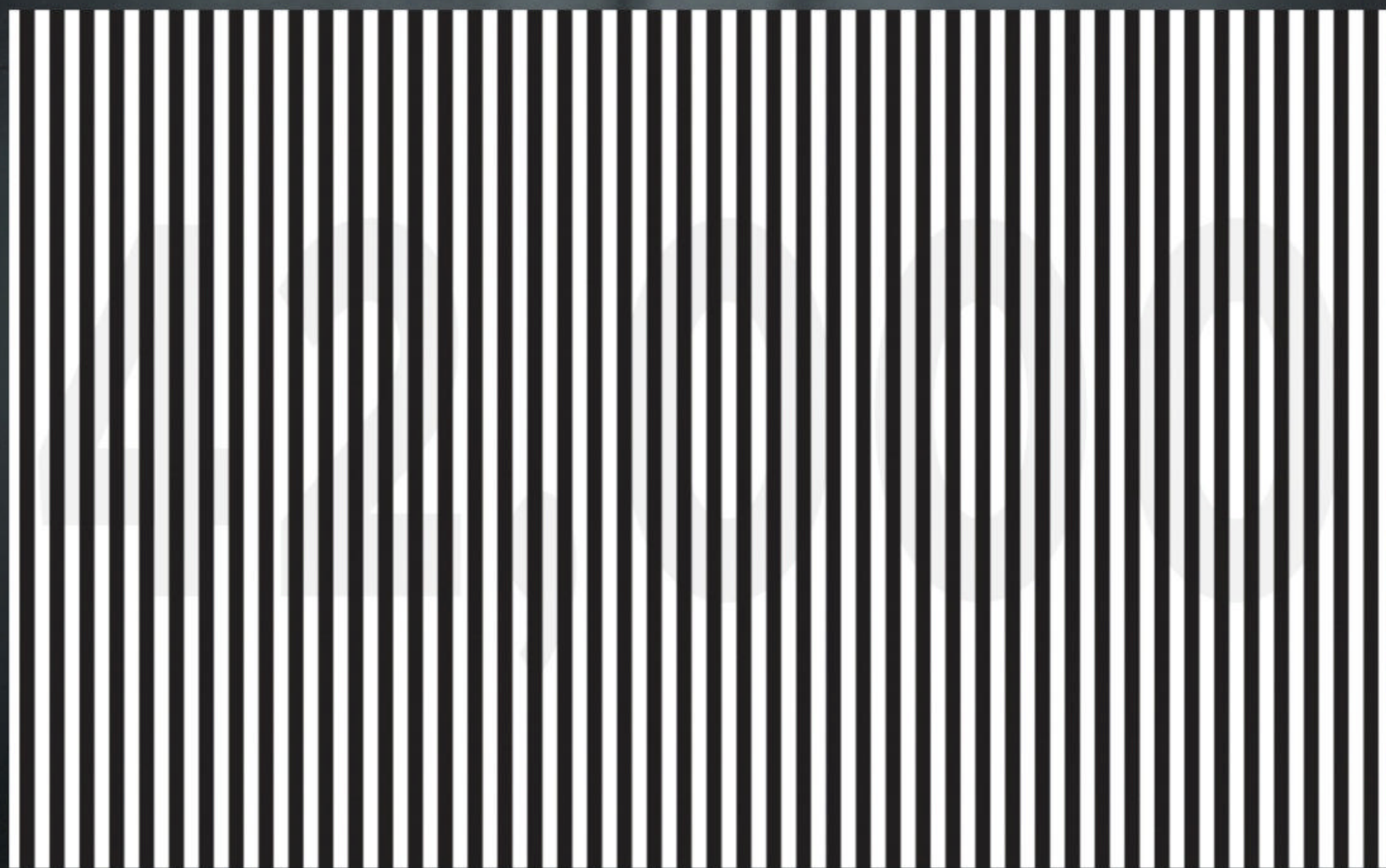
I was pretty high last night! There's a club in Toronto that you can do stand-up at, and Doug Benson told me, "Write your set down because you will forget your set just from the contact high." The smoke was so thick that five minutes into my set, I was high, and my throat was burning.

Edibles are the thing that fuck me up the most, though. Joey Diaz gave my dad edibles one Easter, but he didn't know it, so I took them too, so he wasn't high by himself. We had one of the best conversations. We were drinking whiskey, high as fuck sitting in my backyard having a cigar. I said to my dad, "I feel like you don't like me at times." He just goes, high as fuck, "You make me uncomfortable." My dad was high as shit, and he goes, "You know, I lost my dad at a young age and I'm afraid I'm going to lose you because your lifestyle makes me uncomfortable." I asked what I could do to fix it and he said he wanted me to go to a cardiologist of his choice to have the tests that he felt like needed to be run. I was like, "Of course! I want a better relationship with you." He was like, "This is the greatest night ever!" Two weeks later, I went to the cardiologist and had everything scanned and tested. >>



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And then did you roll up some weed in the cardiologist report and smoke it?

I should have! I should've been like, thank God marijuana was here the night Joey Diaz roofied my dad!

What is your go-to weed on the road, and what's it like when fans bring you any type of drug these days?

After I was roofied by Ari Shaffir, I started becoming very skeptical about everything. I never once thought about it before. Now I'm very specific. I have my own weed, and I have a certain strain that I like, which is Blue Dream. It makes me feel very comfortable. It makes me feel relaxed, so I can sleep better too. I also have a couple vape pens in rotation and some Durban Poison and Jack Herer, a couple strains that are good creative ones.

Even though I don't think everyone can pull them off, I want to support your passion for Speedos. Mostly because I hear they make you "swim like a fucking dolphin."

Water is fucking fascinating when you're high. I always end up in a Speedo, high, and in the pool every time I get high when I'm home. Every fucking time. I end up in my Polar Plunge, or I end up in my pool—it's my favorite thing. The first time I realized how great water is when you're high was when we were having a pool party, so there were a bunch of kids there. We also hired two lifeguards, so everyone felt really comfortable. One of the dads was like, "Hey, you wanna get high?" I said, "Yeah sure, we'll get high." I just ended up in the pool playing sharks and minnows with the kids laughing hysterically like, this is fucking awesome! And I was in a Speedo, so you know I was like a dart in that water! >>









I don't understand how you became the coolest human alive. Your promos? Also cool. Do you come up with those, or are they a group effort?

I wish they were a group effort! We have a drone and it's literally about turning on the camera and figuring something out. We just made one for Red Rocks Amphitheatre in Colorado in the middle of nowhere. I had some ski pants that I just bought, and we grabbed the drone to make it look like I had just got done hiking. Red Rocks is going to be the best because they tell you that you can either leave the venue right when you get off stage or you can hang out. But if you hang out, you have to stay for three hours while traffic leaves. Three hours? You get a caterer there and you plan a party there! Why wouldn't you stay in Red Rocks and party? There's no one there!

Because people don't think like you. Please refer back to "you being the coolest."

Yeah, people are like, "Get me the fuck out of here," and I'm like, "Keep me at this venue!" Last time I did Red Rocks, we were having a party, and everyone is backstage. Around midnight, no one is in this venue, so I go out to the stage with a joint and a cocktail. I lit the joint and sat there and looked up at the stars and rocks thinking, "Fuck, I just did this!" It was the greatest. I'm looking forward to that moment again after the show.

Any thoughts on uninvited party crashers?

I'm so unaware of everything that's going on. I played The Greek [Theatre in Los Angeles], and it was so fucking fun, and the security was slam-packed. People were coming up to the stage to give me joints, and I was like, "Yeah! This is great!" I was just oblivious to all of it and why there was so much security. I was like, "Don't charge me for the extra security! That's on you!" I also think if you're one of my fans, and you come rushing the stage, you're gonna get winded. If you do that and get past security, just give me a hug. 

WEED & FRIENDSHIP: THE PERFECT FORMULA

MACHINE GUN KELLY
AND MOD SUN DISCUSS
MAKING A WEED
MOVIE FOR THE NEXT
GENERATION OF BURNERS.

by Stephen Laddin

Colson Baker (known professionally as Machine Gun Kelly) and Derek Ryan Smith (known professionally as Mod Sun) are childhood pals who like to make stuff. From hit music tracks to feature films, the duo has had great success creating together and individually. But when it comes to

their creative partnership, there's a certain type of magic that can only happen when you're working with your best friend. According to Baker, he and Smith always have a rotating harmony when working on various projects. "It's such a good yin-yang situation between us that we meet in the middle every time. We were given the blessing of if my tank was empty, he was full, and if he was empty, I was full."

When we connect over Zoom, Baker and Smith are eager to share their movie-making insights and their weed smoking exploits, especially with respect to their latest film, *Good Mourning*, which they both wrote, directed, and starred in. *Good Mourning* follows London Clash (played by Baker) who wakes up to a message from his girlfriend that reads "I wish I didn't have to do this thru text. Good Mourning."—an assumed breakup text. This alarming possibility arrives on the same day that London has an important meeting that will determine the future of his acting career. His day becomes a wild adventure that forces him to choose between his love life and landing the big role. The ensuing conversation is further proof that the combination of both weed and friendship is the perfect formula for any successful creative pursuit. >>



MOD SUN AND MACHINE GUN KELLY STAR IN
GOOD MORNING.

High Times: Growing up, did you guys ever envision writing, directing, and starring in your own feature films?

Derek Ryan Smith: I did. It was a goal I'd had since I was very young. I probably would say "movie" [instead of feature film] but—

Colson Baker: Yeah, I was gonna say. Every IG Story post that Mod's done since the start of Instagram has said the word "movie."

I was always that kid with the giant chunky camera—before they started inventing the smaller ones—filming skate tricks or smoking out of an apple. I was always documenting when I was younger. It kind of felt like everything was leading up to *Good Mourning*.

On that tip, *Good Mourning* isn't your first movie collaboration together. What was the inspiration behind this one and why was it important for you guys to make it?

CB: It's a very meta movie that came from a real situation that I was spiraling about, which is exactly what the character London was doing in the movie: Misreading a text message and not being able to get the answer back, so asking your friends "What does this mean, what does this mean?" And them just giving you terrible advice.

My favorite parts of the movie are the moments we wrote down that ended up coming to life later. Like the *Batman* reference. It's London's audition—it's his big day getting his *Batman* audition—and this was before we even found out they were going to make a new *Batman* with Robert Pattinson. It's funny [our] film comes out right after *The Batman* is the talk of the town.

It reminds me of—and I can't believe I'm quoting this—*Not Another Teen Movie*, or *Scary Movie*, or any of those movies where they reference pop culture moments happening at the time. We didn't intentionally have any knowledge of these things. Same with the Fake Drake.

DRS: The Fake Drake thing is just mind-blowing to me. I'll never get over that.

CB: The fact that there wasn't this viral Fake Drake thing happening when we wrote the movie... [it happened for us] because the role was originally supposed to be Drake. We couldn't see [the character] as any other person. Drake was going to do the movie, but then because of scheduling, he could only make it one day. But we didn't have the house that day, and the other day he was back in Toronto. He was like, "If you get a jet, I can make it," which would have cost the entire budget of the movie to get him via jet to Los Angeles for this five-second shot. It worked even better with the Fake Drake.

DRS: That was my final straw. When I saw the Fake Drake viral thing, I was like, "Dude, stop." I couldn't believe it.

CB: Everything manifested from this film. It was a trip.

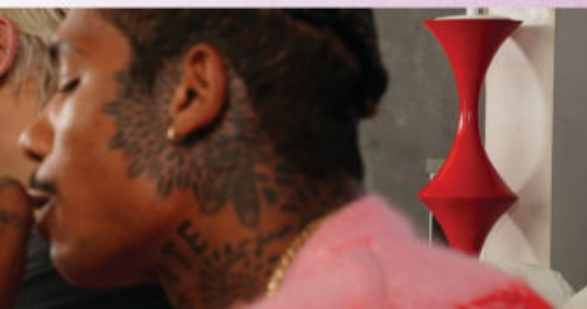
Do you think in some ways, you guys putting Fake Drake into the film helped it manifest in real life?

DRS: We wrote that skater boy bit and then all of a sudden now I'm engaged to Avril Lavigne [*laughs*], so I don't know. >>





"WE WERE NOT SMOKING FAKE WEED ON SET.
WE HAD POUNDS AND POUNDS."
- COLSON BAKER, AKA MACHINE GUN KELLY





“[WRITING THE SCRIPT] KIND OF FELT LIKE A JOB, BUT BEING ABLE TO SMOKE WEED WITH YOUR BEST FRIEND ALL DAY KIND OF GAVE IT THAT CUSHION TO BE FUN.”

- DEREK RYAN SMITH, AKA MOD SUN

CB: The manifestation from this movie almost feels like it needed to come through some type of vessels, and we ended up being the vessels. Stoner comedies—especially for the new generations—are almost nonexistent, and they’re definitely nonexistent in the sense of actual stoners writing and directing them.

We were not smoking fake weed on set. We had pounds and pounds.

DRS: Shhhhhhhhh.

This is *High Times*, you’re good. We want this information.

DRS: Okay, good.

CB: I reached out to Berner and he sent us a pallet of Cookies and every accoutrement you’d need to get high.

DRS: Whoa. What word did you just use?

CB: Every possible way you could smoke weed, he had it in the package. We knew we had to add to the legend of each classic stoner movie having either a [weed] game that you learn or a new way to roll that you learn. We probably have a 10-minute smoker’s montage in the movie, so if there isn’t one [legendary]...

DRS: Please be “the smorkle.”

CB: It’s either “the smorkle,” “five fingers of death,” or the giant Snoop Dogg joint. I’m hoping one of those lands in the classic stoner archives.

The takeaway being, if one kid emulates your smoking techniques, you guys have done your job.

CB: Absolutely. And by one kid, we hopefully mean one million. But yeah.

What’s the difference in your creative process between making a movie like *Good Mourning* and making an album?

CB: If we fuck our albums up, that’s just on us. If we fuck the movie up, we embarrass the cast, we embarrass our financiers, we embarrass ourselves.

DRS: Putting your art in other people’s hands is a different kind of monster to sleep with at night.

CB: Or them putting our art in our hands, but them being the ones giving us the money to do it.

DRS: It’s definitely a whole different experience and takes a whole different side of trust to happen. It’s one thing to trust in yourself, it’s another thing to trust in everybody on set. >>



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Is there anything from the music world that you bring into your creative process when you're making a film?

DRS: I think we might not have believed that we could start a script and finish it if we hadn't learned how to write a song and be able to finish that. Or if we didn't know how to finish an album. I think [finishing music] unlocked something in our brains to see something through until the end. We live in Los Angeles, so how many people

are outside this window right now like, "I'm working on script." And it's been 30 years, you know?

CB: The other thing I took from music to movies was how collaborative music is. They don't really bring that into movies too often outside of the Adam Sandler and the Seth Rogens. There's a few people who learned that reaching out and being collaborative on films is possible—that you can actually just pick up the phone and ask

to collab on films the same way you can ask to collab on songs. That was something we came in with on this.

DRS: We filled this movie with amazing actors and people who have never acted before. People who we just believed could do it.

You're not only indoctrinating—hopefully—millions of people to new smoking techniques, you're also breaking in the



talent of your friends in a new lane for them.

CB: One-hundred percent. It was an honor to have the established comedians come in and bring their comedy to our film because some of those lines that Whitney [Cummings] and Pete [Davidson] said, you couldn't write. Those were strictly from comedic genius brains.

People like GaTa—who we've watched on a great series like *Dave* be GaTa—we were able to give him a character to play that's the complete *opposite* of GaTa. People like Megan [Fox], Dove [Cameron], Zach [Villa]—we got to watch them explore characters we haven't seen them portray before. Like, I've never seen Dove in a stoner movie, right? She's coming from a completely different end of the spectrum in film and TV.

And then Boo [Johnson] who's this rad skater from Long Beach coming in and having a main role in a movie when he's never acted before. I now have high hopes that I'll see him in something else.

You mentioned you were well taken care of with weed on set. How does weed impact your creative process?

DRS: I think with [the *Good Mourning*] script, it was the genesis to everything. Writing a script can feel like homework and we did not go to college. We were done with school when we finished high school, and I'm pretty sure both of us barely finished high school. [Writing the script] kind of felt like a job, but being able to smoke weed with your best friend all day kind of gave it that cushion to be fun.

CB: I think the act of rolling is almost like a stress ball or something. It's less even the smoking and more that you're able to roll something while you're writing and you're sitting in one place. Having something to do with your hands is great. It's either that, or punching each other in the face. I don't know if that would have been as productive, but it also would have been satisfying. >>



Was there any particular strain you guys gravitated toward?

CB: Growing up, I loved Green Crack. I will never forget when I smoked Green Crack for the first time and I was driving in a car that still had snow on the roof of it. In Cleveland, it snows a bunch, so it's not like you brush the snow off the roof, you just leave it on there and get it off the windows. I was so high on Green Crack and my mouth was so parched that I just reached my hand out of the window and grabbed a giant glob of snow and ate it. It was the most refreshing water taste ever.

DRS: Mine was Jack Herer.

DRS and CB: Ohhhhhhhhhhhh!

CB: Jack Herer, dude! That was the go-to sativa.

DRS: That was the designer weed when we were young.

To that end, do you guys have any plans to create your own strains or partner with any brands?

CB: My friend has a great weed company called Rapper Weed. I think the name is genius, but I don't have any part in it. I just think it's a great name.

DRS: I still have plans to write a book where every page is a paper that you can smoke.

CB: Oh, that's sick.

DRS: You can really digest the writing.

You could have your own smoke-able library.

CB: Yeah, that's hard. You could light that library on fire. It's a new twist on *Fahrenheit 451*, dude. It's the less-dark version of that.

What was the most challenging aspect of making *Good Mourning*?

CB: It would have to be never actually having a cast until the day we would shoot. Even when we had the main cast casted the day before we had to shoot, there was always cameos or characters in the script where we were like, "Oh shit, we forgot there's 'Unknown Person #2' that we always wanted to be so-and-so." We were calling in favors left and right.

DRS: The hours were pretty crazy. [Colson] also had to show up an hour-and-a-half earlier than me every day to cover up his tattoos. And I think just directing the energy of a bunch of people in the same room and keeping the vibe where it needs to be to get the right shot.

CB: We had to break up the weed montage into two days because there was so much smoking. A lot didn't get used, but one day the smoke set off the fire alarm in the house, which originally was okay because we'd turned the sprinklers off. Or so we thought. One of the sprinklers was actually left on and it sprayed all over the camera equipment and wouldn't stop. It was like a fire truck hose was going off.

Did that burn a day?

CB: It burned a lot of the day.

DRS: We flooded the house we were in pretty much.

But you still made a movie.

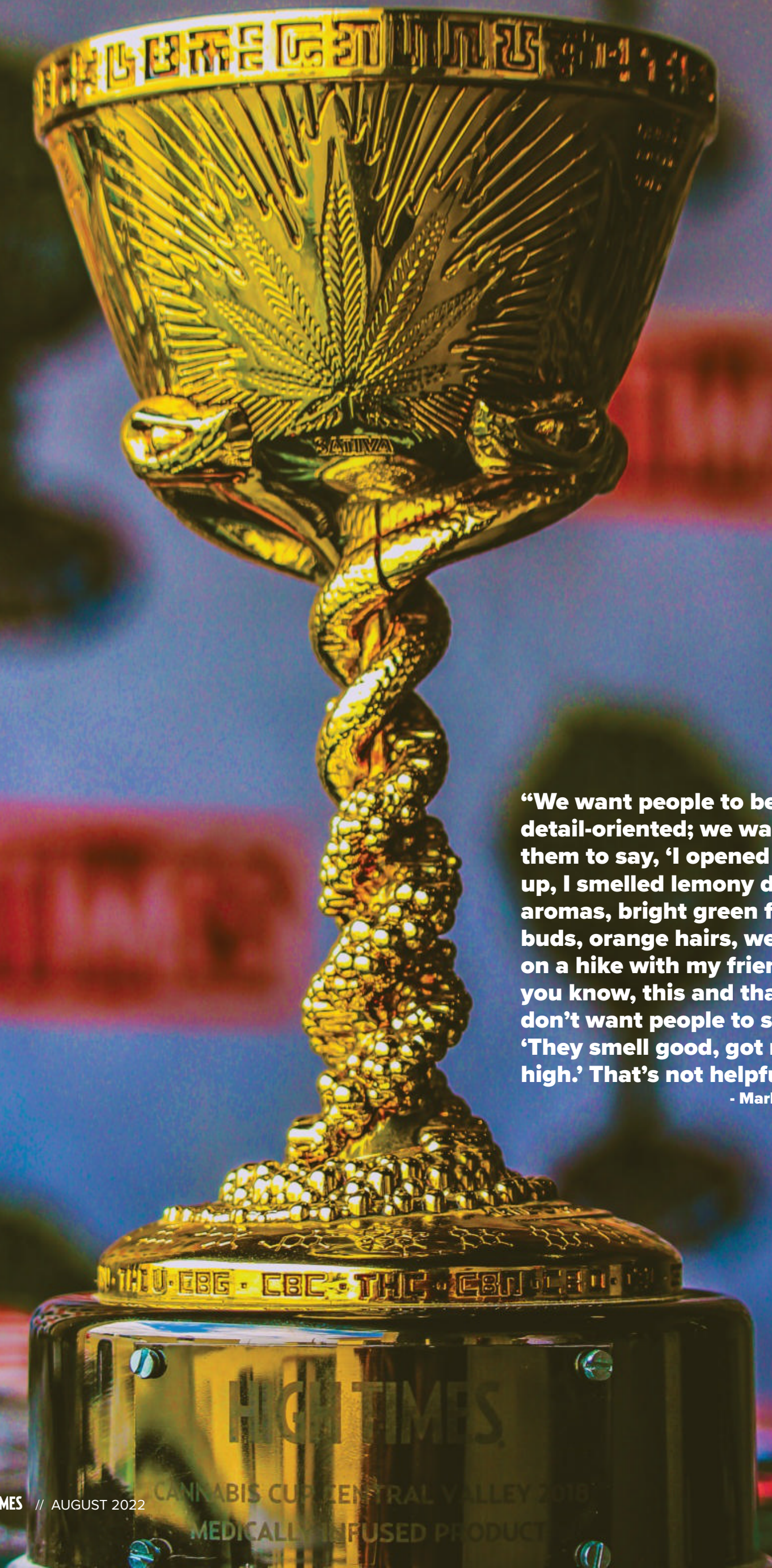
DRS: Somehow. Somehow we did. 

**"STONER COMEDIES—ESPECIALLY FOR THE NEW GENERATIONS—ARE ALMOST NONEXISTENT, AND THEY'RE DEFINITELY NONEXISTENT IN THE SENSE OF ACTUAL STONERS WRITING AND DIRECTING THEM."
—COLSON BAKER, AKA MACHINE GUN KELLY**

goodmourningmovie.com







“We want people to be detail-oriented; we want them to say, ‘I opened it up, I smelled lemony diesel aromas, bright green fluffy buds, orange hairs, went on a hike with my friend,’ you know, this and that. We don’t want people to say, ‘They smell good, got me high.’ That’s not helpful.”

- Mark Kazinec

CANNABIS IN COMPETITION



THE HYBRID
FLOWER
SELECTIONS IN
THE 2022 SOCAL
CANNABIS CUP.

This is what it's like to become a judge for the *High Times* Cannabis Cup People's Choice Edition.

by Benjamin M. Adams

Judging the *High Times* Cannabis Cup People's Choice Edition is a rare opportunity to be directly involved in the outcome of the ultimate quest for the dankest, most flavor-packed flower strains and concentrates.

Each cannabis tournament has its respective perks, and there are many events to choose from. But the *High Times* Cannabis Cup, launched in Rotterdam, Holland in 1987 by long-time editor Steven Hager, is the OG competition.

It was the first major cannabis tournament to take place. Only a handful of seed companies entered the first Cannabis Cup in '87, and about 30 people attended. Skunk #1 was the original winner, placing first and setting the stage for promoting and celebrating individual cannabis cultivars. It wasn't until the event's sixth year that attendance surpassed 800.

Over time, Cannabis Cup events have been held everywhere from Jamaica to Alaska. Nowadays, *High Times* provides People's Choice events that are judged using an entirely different structure and scheme. Instead of only allowing a select list of seasoned experts to evaluate the weed, the competition is open to all participants who pay to join in. No person is excluded from the pool of judges, regardless of their level of professional expertise.

The People's Choice Cups are held not only in California but also in Michigan, Colorado, Illinois, and Alaska. Let's take a deeper look into the specifics of being a *High Times* Cannabis Cup: People's Choice Edition judge. >>



HIGH TIMES STAFF PACK THE BACKPACKS FOR THE PEOPLE'S CHOICE EDITION.

Judging the People's Choice Edition

It was an honor to serve as a judge for the *High Times* Cannabis Cup People's Choice Edition: SoCal 2022 this year. Judge Kits in Southern California became available to *High Times* store loyalty members on May 13 and the general public the next day. Entries were due on July 10, about two months later, and on July 24, the winners were announced. This timeline gives judges about 60 days to review each strain—the perfect amount of time to have a full day to savor each strain's aroma, taste, and other aspects with a clear flavor palate. Judges can easily smoke or vape each entry on a different day or hours apart to avoid confusing any of the effects with one another.

I headed on over to the *High Times* San Bernardino store, the nearest location to where I live, to grab a Judge Kit and see for myself how this process works. While I've contributed to the magazine for a number of years, I've never visited a *High Times* dispensary before, until now.

The backpacks were lined up neatly with a label indicating which category they fall under. The categories are the following: Indica Flower, Sativa Flower, Hybrid Flower, Pre-rolls, Infused Pre-rolls, Solventless Concentrates, Vape Pens, Edibles: Gummies, Edibles: Non-Gummies, Edibles: Beverages, and the final category is Topicals, Tinctures and Capsules. Each Judge Kit in the SoCal Cup has a market value of up to \$280, pre-tax.

I felt like a child seeing Willy Wonka's factory for the first time when I opened the backpack. Some strains were purple, others even deeper purples. Others were frosted with white crystals or covered in orange hairs. Some were dense nugs, while others were fluffy buds with wispy sugar leaves still intact. Practically every strain had a set of unique characteristics that became more apparent the more I gazed at them. I didn't know where to start.

"Each kit comes complete with all of the entries from that category," *High Times* Director of Events Mark Kazinec says as he hands me my backpack. "So, for example, Indica Flower has 22 different 1 gram units from different brands, different strains. It's all wrapped up in a *High Times* backpack."

The backpacks have the *High Times* logo embroidered on the front and the *High Times* Cannabis Cup People's Choice Edition: SoCal 2022 logo embroidered on the side pocket. Each backpack is stuffed with cannabis entries and includes a scorecard inside. The scorecard gives judges an access code to the judging portal. The 1 gram size is perfect—enough for up to several bowls each.

The scorecard indicates where to go to rate each strain, how to log in, and so forth. An email is automatically sent to confirm each time a strain review is submitted. The emails also serve as a placement point to know which strains have already been completed. In the event that a judge accidentally turns in two strain ratings, the most recent submission is selected by default.

Judges assess how each strain looks, tastes, smells, feels, and burns on a scale of one to 10. >>



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Judging Flower for the First Time

The SoCal judging marks not only the first year I've judged a Cannabis Cup event, but also the first year I've judged any cannabis tournament, for that matter.

In my case, I went to *CannabisCup.com*, then clicked the red judging portal button, verified my age, and selected Cannabis Cup People's Choice Edition: SoCal 2022. Then I selected Hybrid Flower, the type of Judge Kit that I signed up to receive. Finally, I picked my first strain to review, Jealousy by LitHouse, a cross between Gelato #41 and Sherbet—two strains most aficionados are well familiar with.

My sample of Jealousy had a lower total THC content compared to the others in my bag at 29%, but it was what I describe as “two notches” stronger than I anticipated. To compare, Feria, aka “The Fetti,” by Green Dragon contained 39% THC and 2.68% terpenes. Feria is believed to be Pie Hole (Cherry Pie x OGKB) crossed with Secret Cake, Secret Cookies, or both. Just about every entry provided lab results showing cannabinoid content and sometimes terpene content.

“I loved breaking apart the bud leaves with my fingers to reveal the plum stripes with lime hints and great spongy nug structure,” I wrote of Jealousy in the judge's portal. It had an earthy yet funky taste, which I described as pleasant but not bold, with a distinct sweet but piney aroma. I also was prompted to describe burnability, visual appeal, and so on. And this is just the first entry that I sampled! I still had 20 more strains to go through. I felt a little rusty on my first entry, and my descriptions of each aspect of the flower rating scale got longer as I went on.

Inside the portal, I'm prompted to rank the strain 1-10 in the following parameters: aesthetics/texture, aroma/scent, taste, burnability, effects, and terpene profile. The portal asks one question at a time, and when you hit enter, the next question immediately appears. It also asks me to describe several aspects of the strain.



Grandi Guava (Guava x Gelato) by Triple Seven immediately caught my eye with shelf appeal upon my initial visual inspection. The purple-plum sugar leaves were almost completely snowed over in trichomes to the point that you couldn't see the bud leaf color very well. It looked diabolical. I felt a wave of excitement go through my body. On the other hand, the Vanilla Dice by Claybourne Co., with unknown parentage, was a darker green with trichomes that are much more white in color. It did give off a close to a creamy vanilla whiff, but it was very subtle, almost indiscernible.

Hyped-up strains like Pink Certz by Sense (The Menthol x Grape Gasoline) provided more sativa daytime effects than the indica-dominant hybrids and a complex flavor of bold berries and mint. Pink Certz also has a wicked look and shelf appeal with dark green buds covered in white-beige trichomes.

A person on Twitter asked me if judging cannabis is like judging wine, and I admitted that they are indeed similar. Both come from plants that produce a myriad of flavor and aroma profiles. Selections can vary in bite, body, bouquet, finish, etc. The cannabis industry uses different words, but the general idea is the same. Finished flower can rival the finest French wine in taste, color, aroma,

and exquisiteness.

All of the strains are strong contenders, so it's pertinent to keep in mind that judges compare them one to another, and not all are going to receive 10s, even though just about every entry is impressive.

Kazinec isn't interested in descriptions by judges who only put in half of the effort. The portal even provided me with an example of a good strain assessment.

“We want people to be detail-oriented; we want them to say, ‘I opened it up, I smelled lemony diesel aromas, bright green fluffy buds, orange hairs, went on a hike with my friend,’ you know this and that,” Kazinec says. “We don't want people to say, ‘They smell good, got me high.’ That's not helpful.”

Keep in mind that all of the strains are going to be strong, as farmers and brands will only enter in only the finest flowers that represent their companies best.

“All of these responses go back to the vendors who put their heart and soul into creating these products that are literally picking their best yields or best buds to put in this cup,” Kazinec says. “We want the judges to also do the same thing and put their time and effort into this. They have 60 days to judge all of their products. And yeah, we want people to be very thorough and very detailed.” >>



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Air of Inclusiveness

Not everyone can be a grower who has been in the biz for over 30 years. People's Choice is about including all.

"People's Choice is now open to everyone," Kazinec says. "We want people from all walks of life, whether you're going an OG grower who knows exactly how to describe, you know, limonene and myrcene, terpene profiles, but we also want the new consumers who, you know, are trading out their glass of wine for a joint at the end of the night, people who are very experienced, people [who are] are not very experienced. All of that is part of the wide demographic of cannabis consumers. We want to capture everybody."

Kazinec explains that the feedback from all these different types of people will help inform these brands to better understand what is working and what's not working.

"This is now People's Choice," Kazinec says. "It's open to everybody. It's not reserved for the Snoop Doggs and Willie Nelsons or the *High Times* homies, you know, from 40 years ago, so it's the perfect opportunity for those who have been waiting or for those who are just finding out about this judging opportunity to take advantage and see who's the best."

In my Hybrid Flower judge kit, Green Dragon, Claybourne Co., Wizard Trees, and CannDESCENT had stellar contenders that stood out. However, I cannot reveal all of my observations quite yet, as the competition is still in motion as I write this article. My advice is, as always, it's best not to get too caught up in the packaging, as it has nothing to do with the actual quality of the flower.

Judging a Cannabis Cup was everything I'd hoped it would be and more. I learned about some new strains, I got to compare them to each other, and I feel like I know more about flower now than I did when I started judging. Would I do it again? Most definitely, and I encourage others to do so themselves.

Anyone who is willing is worthy of becoming a *High Times* Cannabis Cup: People's Choice Edition judge. Visit cannabiscup.com to learn more and find events closer to your home state. **HT**

 cannabiscup.com





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MAKE YOUR OWN MAGIC



Stephanie Hua is a master of culinary confections with her infused-marshmallow business, Mellows.

by A.J. Herrington

THE WORLD OF MARIJUANA EDIBLES HAS COME A LONG WAY SINCE BROWNIE MARY JANE RATHBUN made pot brownies a ubiquitous part of cannabis culture. Weed gummies are now a mainstay for many companies and consumers alike, and cannabis beverages are finding more and more space on dispensary shelves.

But bringing a truly unique pot edible to market is no easy task, particularly in California, the world's largest and arguably most regulated legal cannabis market. But that's just what Stephanie Hua, the founder and chief confectioner at San Francisco-based Mellows, has managed to do with a line of gourmet cannabis-infused marshmallows. >>

FROM MARKETING TO MARIJUANA

HUA STARTED HER PROFESSIONAL CAREER IN NEW YORK IN the marketing and advertising industries. But after moving to the West Coast and nurturing her talent for food blogging and photography, she decided to pursue a culinary arts degree from the San Francisco Cooking School. About the same time that she earned her degree, her husband David founded a company that developed software for cannabis businesses, giving her a unique view of the industry that fostered a love for the plant.

“It was a really interesting perspective to come to cannabis from the food world,” Hua tells *High Times* in a telephone interview.

When Hua joined her husband on business trips to cannabis companies and had the opportunity to sample products, she quickly realized that many edibles, often dosed with medical marijuana patients in mind, were too potent for her liking. That’s when the idea of combining her passions into a new career began to grow.

“We were visiting a lot of dispensaries and trying a lot of products on the market, and there was kind of this lightbulb moment where it was really this great opportunity to meld these two loves of food and cannabis into a business,” Hua says.

As a Chinese American and the daughter of immigrants, Hua says that her life experience has prepared her well to be both a chef and an entrepreneur. She has had many role models in her life who have worked hard to create something out of nothing, giving her the courage to take up a similar challenge, including founding Mellows in 2015.

“I’ve had the fortune of growing up believing you can make your own magic; you can really create the future that you want to see,” Hua explains. “And so, I think that has been a lot of the inspiration and a motivating factor of going into business for myself.”

SMALL-BATCH SATIVA SWEETS

AT MELLOWS, HUA CREATES INFUSED, HAND-CRAFTED MARSH-mallow delights in gourmet flavors including birthday cake, brown butter sage, chocolate, and strawberry shortcake, all available from licensed dispensaries and delivery services across California.



The original Mellows recipe provides only 5 mg of THC each, giving consumers a starting point that is unlikely to produce the infamous “I’m so high I think I might die” feeling in all but the lightest of lightweights.

“We started out as a low-dose product really to be able to make it approachable and fun, exciting and delightful for people who may be trying cannabis for the first time,” says Hua, “to make it an approachable and not scary experience.”

A Mellows gift box contains an assortment of 12 pieces in the most popular flavors. The more potent Super Mellow is a giant marshmallow scored into four pieces, each providing a respectable 25 mg of THC. All Mellows are made with coconut oil infused with single-origin Red Congolese ice water hash. Red Congolese is a landrace sativa cultivar that offers a euphoric high.

A good buzz isn’t the only thing that Hua is after with Mellows, however. She is also keen on making marijuana as normal as any other legal product for adults to enjoy.

“One of our core missions has always been to destigmatize cannabis,” says Hua. “We say ‘to destigmatize, normalize, and elevate’ the edibles experience. That has been our mantra since the beginning.”



“One of our core missions has always been to destigmatize cannabis. We say ‘to destigmatize, normalize, and elevate’ the edibles experience. That has been our mantra since the beginning.”

- Stephanie Hua

THE RECIPE FOR SUCCESS

HUA HAS PARLAYED HER CULINARY TRAINING AND SUCCESS AS a cannabis entrepreneur into success as an author. Thanks to their connections in the cannabis industry and skills at the keyboard and in the kitchen, Hua and cannabis chef and “dear friend” Coreen Carroll were invited by publisher Chronicle Books to write a weed-inspired cookbook. The result is *Edibles: Small Bites for the Modern Cannabis Kitchen*.

“They worked together with us, and we were able to create 30 recipes,” Hua says about the authors’ experience with Chronicle Books. “I think it’s a beautiful representation of our culinary backgrounds and the food that we like to make for ourselves. These are all really tried-and-true recipes, and we were able to present it in a way that is really approachable.”

Edibles is written for cooks of all skill levels and includes detailed instructions for creating cannabis infusions such as cannabutter and canna-coconut oil. With it, home chefs can make delectable weed edibles that go way beyond the pot brownie. Start

your home-crafted dispensary-to-table menu with a refreshing infused peach and ginger ale float mocktail and some roasted beet hummus or pimiento cheese and tomato tea sandwiches. Then go on to brunch offerings like green eggs and ham, or sink your teeth into a plateful of duck meatball sliders. Treats for the most discriminating sweet tooth are also included, with cannoli cups, blueberry lemon macarons, and cardamom caramels standing out among the delights.

“Coming from food writing, it was a dream come true to be able to have a published cookbook,” says Hua. “I never thought that it would be a cookbook about cannabis. It was a wonderful kind of full-circle experience when that opportunity came around.” **HT**

Edibles by Stephanie Hua and Coreen Carroll, featuring photography by Linda Xiao, is available from Chronicle Books.

 getmellows.com



CARDAMOM CARAMELS

THESE CHEWY CARAMELS HAVE JUST THE RIGHT AMOUNT OF SALT AND A TOUCH OF CARDAMOM TO GIVE them an aromatic allure. Pack them in a pretty tin to make an unforgettable gift. This recipe makes a generous number of caramels, so don't feel guilty keeping a few for yourself. Once you've mastered this technique, you may find yourself making batch after batch. Get creative with the flavor profile and try swapping pumpkin spice, ground ginger, or espresso powder for the cardamom. Experiment and have fun!

ACTIVE TIME:
35 MINUTES

INACTIVE TIME:
3 HOURS

MAKES:
48 2-BY-1-IN PIECES

Special Equipment

Instant-read thermometer or
candy thermometer

Ingredients:

1 cup | 240 g heavy cream
1½ Tbsp | 22 g unsalted butter
2 Tbsp plus 1½ tsp | 32 g
cannabutter
1 tsp ground cardamom
1 Tbsp kosher salt
¼ cup | 80 g light corn syrup
¼ cup | 60 g water
1 ½ cups | 300 g sugar
1 tsp vanilla bean paste or
vanilla extract

Directions:

1. Line an 8-by-8-in [20-by-20-cm] pan with parchment paper. Set aside.
2. In a medium saucepan over medium heat, combine the cream, butter, cannabutter, cardamom, and salt. Warm just until the butter melts (don't let it boil) for about 4 minutes. Remove from the heat.
3. In a 3½-qt [3.3-L] saucepan (size matters because the caramel will bubble up) over medium-high heat, combine the corn syrup and water. (If using a candy thermometer, clip it to the saucepan.)
4. Pour the sugar directly into the center of the liquids to avoid any sugar getting onto the sides of the pan. If you do get sugar on the sides, wash it down using a pastry brush dipped in water.
5. Cook the sugar mixture, letting it come to a boil without stirring, for about 6 minutes. At about 250°F [120°C], the sugar syrup will start to boil rapidly. (If using an instant-read thermometer, check the temperature by tilting the pan so the probe measures the temperature of the syrup and not the bottom of the pan. The syrup will be bubbling aggressively, so be careful.) If there are any bits of sugar that have not melted yet, nudge them gently with the tip of your thermometer or a knife.

HT

GANJA GOURMET

6. Continue to cook for about 10 minutes more until the syrup reaches 320°F [160°C]. Because there is a small volume of syrup, you may need to tip the pan to get an accurate temperature reading. That's fine, but, otherwise, avoid any unnecessary stirring.

7. Once the syrup hits 320°F [160°C], gently stir it with a rubber spatula while slowly pouring the warm cream mixture into the sugar syrup. The liquid will bubble up and triple in size. Let the caramel return to a boil, stirring constantly to keep the bottom from burning. Cook for about 5 minutes until the caramel reaches 250°F [120°C]. When the caramel is close to temperature, stir in the vanilla bean paste.

8. Quickly pour the caramel into the prepared pan, scraping the bottom and sides with the rubber spatula. Let cool completely, at least 3 hours or, ideally, overnight. When the caramel has set, lift it out of the pan by the parchment.

9. Spray a sharp knife with baking spray. Working quickly, cut the caramel block into four equal quarters. Halve each quarter vertically, then, cutting horizontally, divide each half into six even pieces. Each caramel should measure 2-in-by-1-in [5 cm by 2.5 cm]. If the caramels become too soft to handle, refrigerate them to firm up.

10. To wrap your caramels, cut 48 3-by-4-in [7.5-by-10-cm] pieces of parchment paper, wax paper, or cellophane candy wrappers. Wrap each caramel in paper and crease it, then twist the ends closed. Store the wrapped caramels in an airtight container at room temperature for up to one week, or freeze for up to six months.

Reprinted from *Edibles* by Stephanie Hua with Coreen Carroll, with permission from Chronicle Books, 2018. Photographs Linda Xiao.



CANNABUTTER

A BASIC BUILDING BLOCK FOR COOKING WITH CANNABIS, cannabutter is one of the most commonly used forms of infusion. Once you master this recipe, you can turn almost anything into an edible. Whether it's baked goods, confections, or savory bites, use your versatile cannabutter to make them extra special. For a simple transformation, stir some melted cannabutter into any store-bought or homemade sauce or spread.

ACTIVE TIME:
30 MINUTES

INACTIVE TIME:
28 HOURS

MAKES:
1 CUP | 206 G

Special Equipment

Candy thermometer (optional)

Fine-mesh strainer
cheesecloth

Tall 1-qt [960-ml] deli container or measuring cup

½-pt [240-ml] glass Mason jar with tight-fitting lid



Ingredients:

¼ oz | 7 g decarboxylated cannabis flower

12 oz | 340 g cold unsalted butter

2 cups | 473 g cold water

NOTE

For our recipe we use standard American butter, which typically clocks in at around 80% butterfat. European-style butter will have upwards of 82% butterfat, which may give you a higher potency than what we've tested.

Directions:

1. In a medium saucepan over medium heat, combine the cannabis, butter, and water. Bring to just below boiling, 200°F to 210°F [95°C to 99°C], without stirring. We recommend using a candy thermometer for precision. Adjust the heat to low. Keep the mixture at this temperature for 4 hours. Using a rubber spatula, scrape down the sides of the pan if you start to see bits of herb sticking to it. The liquid will be at a constant, gentle simmer. A few bubbles will break through the fat layer, but the mixture should never come to a rolling boil. If you notice the water getting low from evaporation, add 1 cup [237 g] hot tap water to prevent the mixture from burning.

2. After 4 hours, remove the pan from heat and let cool for 10 minutes.

3. Place a fine-mesh strainer over a large bowl and line the strainer with cheesecloth. Carefully pour in the cannabis-butter mixture. Use a rubber spatula to scrape out the pot, making sure you get all the butter and herb particles. With the spatula or the back of a ladle, press the mixture against the strainer to squeeze out all the liquid you can. Gather up the cheesecloth and give it another good press against the sieve to make sure you get out as much liquid as possible. Discard the leftover debris. (If you are making a larger batch, you may find it helpful to use a potato ricer

to efficiently compress the cheese-cloth wrapped herb.)

4. Pour the butter-water liquid into a tall container—make sure the container isn't too wide, or your butter block will be too thin and difficult to remove. Use a rubber spatula to clean the bowl; make sure you get every last bit—that's liquid gold in there! Cover and refrigerate for 24 hours.

5. Once the mixture cools, the butter and water will separate. Remove the butter block from the container and pat dry with a paper towel. You may have to cut around the edges or lightly push down on the sides to loosen it. If your block breaks while pulling it out, don't worry. Just make sure to get all the butter pieces out. Use a small strainer to scoop up any remaining butter bits.

6. On the bottom of the butter block, you will see a green film. Using the back of a knife, scrape off this film and toss it along with the remaining water down the drain.

7. In a small pot over low heat, melt the cannabutter. Once melted, immediately turn off the heat and pour the butter into the glass jar and seal the lid. Label the jar with the date and contents. Refrigerate for up to one month, or freeze for up to six months.

TIP

Feeling adventurous? Instead of pitching that canna-water, add it to a pot of salted water and use it to boil pasta! Instant canna-noodles.

NEWS

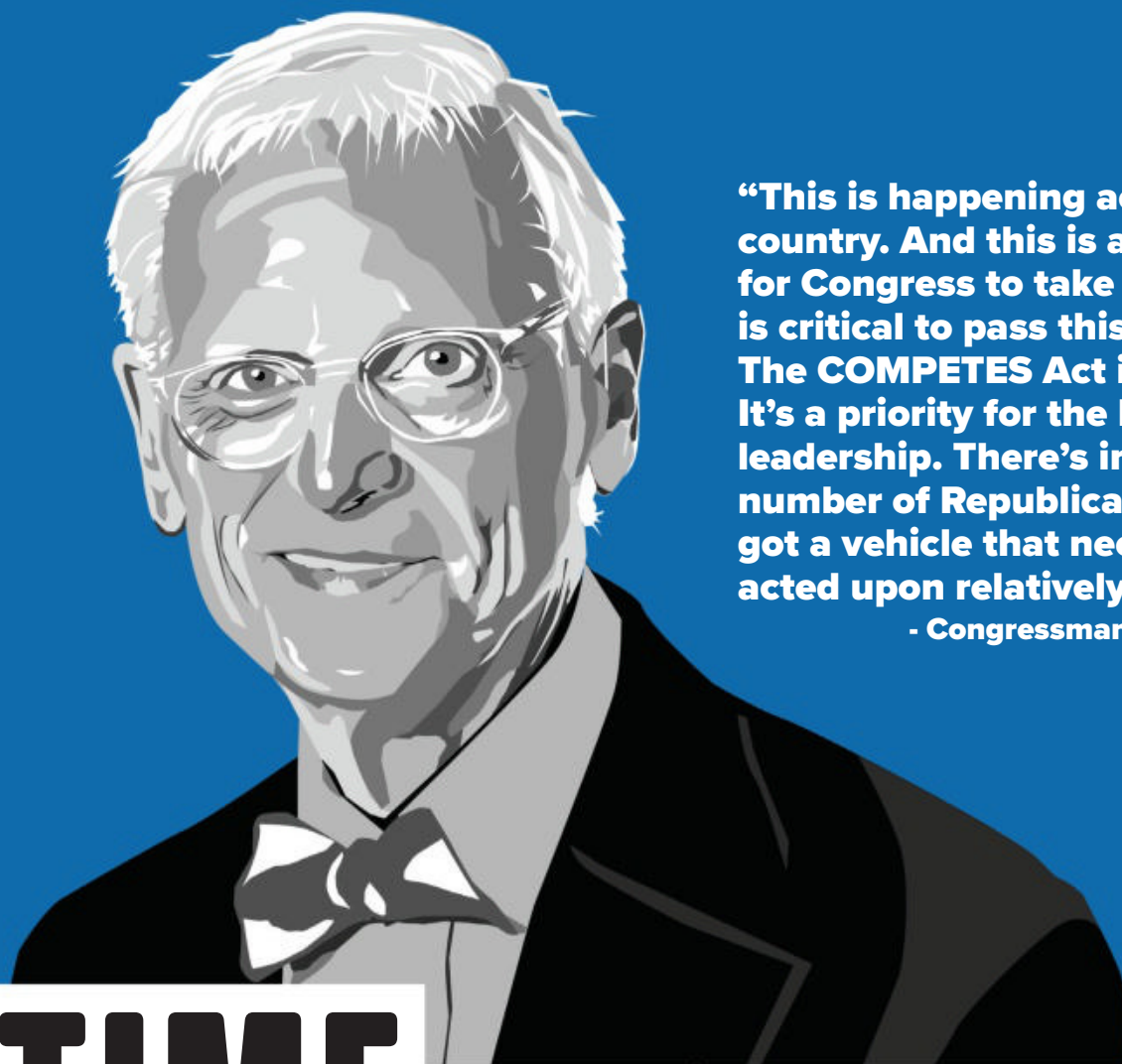


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“This is happening across the country. And this is an opportunity for Congress to take a bill that is critical to pass this House. The COMPETES Act is a priority. It’s a priority for the Democratic leadership. There’s interest in a number of Republicans. So we’ve got a vehicle that needs to be acted upon relatively soon.”

- Congressman Earl Blumenauer

TIME TO ACT

Congressman Earl Blumenauer discusses the urgency to retain the SAFE Banking Act in broad federal legislation in order to save lives.

by Benjamin M. Adams

A KEY PROVISION THAT WOULD FINALLY ALLOW BANKING INSTITUTIONS to cater to businesses that touch cannabis is gaining momentum as the U.S. House and Senate iron out their versions of broad spending bills.

On March 28, the Senate voted 68-28 to substitute the text of the House’s H.R. 4521, the America Creating Opportunities for Manufacturing, Pre-Eminence in Technology, and Economic Strength (COMPETES) Act of 2022, with the text of the Senate’s U.S. Innovation and Competition Act (USICA) of 2021.

But one provision, in particular, was missing from the Senate’s version—the Secure and Fair Enforcement (SAFE) Banking Act, which would finally end the discord between state and federal law regarding banking services for cannabis businesses.

The House, as expected, rejected the substituted legislation and requested a bicameral conference to reconcile the differences between the bill versions, one being the omission of the SAFE Banking Act.

A letter dated April 27 and signed by Congress members Earl Blumenauer and Ed Perlmutter reads that it is “imperative” that the 107-member bicameral conference committee include SAFE Banking Act in the final conference committee report of the America COMPETES Act. The letter was addressed to the four leading senators, including Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, Senate Minority Mitch McConnell, and House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy.

The bicameral conference committee met beginning on May 12 to launch the conferencing process. Both the Senate’s USICA Act and the House’s COMPETES Act allocate \$52 billion in federal funding to boost domestic semiconductor manufacturing—a primary market being overtaken by China. China is just three or four generations behind gaining the global edge on the semiconductor industry. The COMPETES and USICA acts are designed to compete with China, but provide a perfect vehicle for legislation like the SAFE Banking Act.

Blumenauer and Perlmutter’s letter highlighted a specific violent series of incidents spanning one week in March in Washington state. For instance, Jordan Brown, 29, was shot and killed—allegedly by a 16-year-old who could not resist the lure of piles of cash inside the dispensary.

“Just last month, three people were killed in one week during robberies targeting cannabis businesses in Washington state,” the letter reads. “This violence is widespread and ongoing, and it punishes the communities already most vulnerable and targeted in the War on Drugs.” >>

ILLUSTRATION: TOMAS CORTES



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Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN) guidelines dictate that banking institutions must report cannabis businesses, and the businesses can face astronomical fines from federal prosecutors if rules are broken.

Only an act of Congress could free banking institutions and create a permanent solution to the problem.

Senator Patty Murray is focused on this legislation in particular “because of the three deaths last month in her state related to robberies of dispensaries,” Congressman Blumenauer tells *High Times*. “That’s why she came out with a very strong statement wanting this language retained [in] its committee. But it’s not just in the state of Washington or the state of Oregon. A national epidemic of cannabis poses huge problems for people who are struggling to stay in business.”

Monopolized cannabis chains can afford the extra security, but that’s not the case for everyone, including many businesses in struggling communities, the same communities Blumenauer has been focused on for years.

“And the burden, as I mentioned, is on people of color in emerging markets—not the operations that can absorb the extra costs, and, frankly, they aren’t on the receiving end,” Blumenauer says. “I think that this is, in fact, a significant difference.”

We asked Blumenauer if these specific acts of violence will be the last straw for his fellow conferees who may be on the fence about cannabis banking.

“I think people are being recognized because you see it repeatedly. But, I think that we’ve not had that sense of urgency,” Blumenauer says. “As I mentioned, the statistics that I just gave you from the state [showing an uptick in violence] are not unique. This is happening across the country. And this is an opportunity for Congress to take a bill that is critical to pass this House. The COMPETES Act is a priority. It’s a priority for the Democratic leadership. There’s interest in a number of Republicans. So we’ve got a vehicle that needs to be acted upon relatively soon. There’s broad support for it. And frankly, this piece of legislation is relatively small, related to the other billions of dollars spent for what’s happening in dealing with our challenges with China.”

So what does Blumenauer think about the SAFE Banking Act’s current odds, given that the midterm elections are approaching in November?

“It passed overwhelmingly in the House with about a three-to-one margin,” Blumenauer says. “So the political support is there. The people on the conference committee, there is support for it. So it’s time to cut to the chase and solve this problem for people of color in the industry and to provide safety and security.”

A group of 24 senators, including five Republicans, wrote a letter to Senate and House leaders on May 12, spearheaded by Senator Jackie Rosen, which signals Senate support similar to Blumenauer’s efforts. In the meantime, states are trying to find their own solutions. 

HIGH FIVE

FIVE CANNABIS WORD ORIGINS

The etymology of cannabis-related words is a complex lesson in world history.

by Benjamin M. Adams

1

HEMP

The word “hemp” is of Germanic origins adopted into Old English. According to the *Etymology Online Dictionary*, “hemp” comes from the Old English word “hænep,” referring to *cannabis sativa*. It originates from the Proto-Germanic word “hanapiz,” which is also the word source of the Old Saxon word “hanap,” the Old Norse word “hampr,” the Old High German word “hanaf,” and the German word “hanf.” It really goes to show how words evolve over time. It’s also related to the Dutch word “hennep.” Nowadays, of course, hemp only refers to non-psychoactive varieties of cannabis.

2

DAGGA

While countries in northern Africa use different terms, in South Africa and surrounding areas, “dagga” is commonly used to describe cannabis. Dagga is the Afrikaans word for cannabis that became widely used in the 1660s. Dagga derives from the word “dacha” in the Khoekhoe language, used by Hottentot people, and is a term used to describe cannabis and other various psychoactive plant species such as *leonotis leonurus*, a smokable shrub also called lion’s tail. Today, legendary strains like Durban Poison and Malawi Gold put South Africa on the map.

3

HASHISH

According to *English Words of Arabic Ancestry*, the earliest known archived record of the word “hashish” is from 1598, but it has been commonly used at least since the Middle Ages.

Hashish comes from “assassin,” originating from the 13th century French and Italian words “assissini” and “assassini,” and transforming from the Arabic “hashīshīn” in the 12th century. Legend has it that assassins from the Hassan-i Sabbāh sect used hashish to recruit more members by drugging themselves and others with the potent cannabis concentrate, as described in Marco Polo’s writings.

4

BHANG

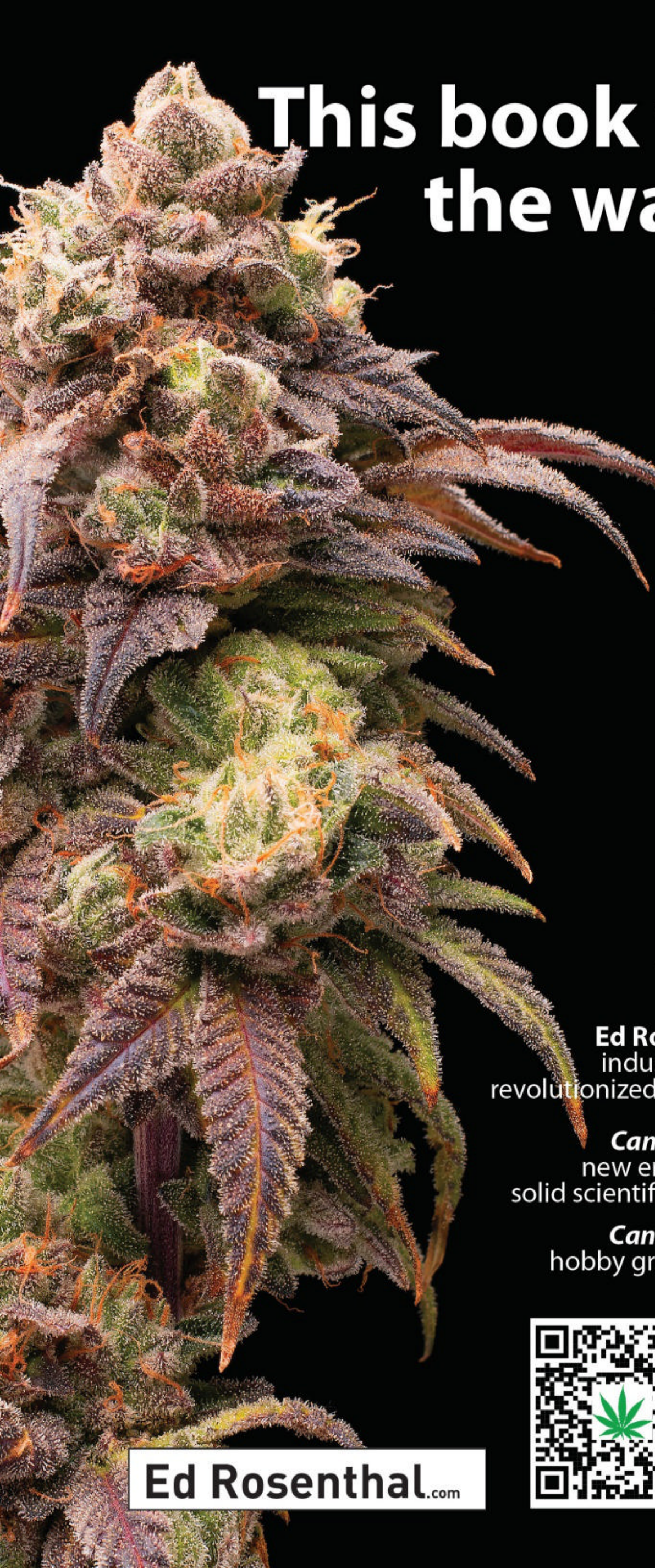
The ancient Sanskrit word for cannabis is exceptionally old and dates back to the 5th century BC or 400 CE. According to *Cannabis: A History*, the word “bhang” and other variations became popular among Hindi-speaking cultures. The word was first mentioned in 1596 by Dutch merchant Jan Huyghen van Linschoten. The Shaivite tradition, for instance, believes that bhang should be given as an offering to Shiva. It has been used to describe hemp, marijuana, and intoxicating drinks made from marijuana. Modern bhang is usually a cannabis tea made with milk and sometimes saffron and garam masala.

5

PAKALŌLŌ

Literally speaking, pakalōlō, the Hawaiian word for weed, means “numbing tobacco.” The Hawaiian “paka” means tobacco, and “lōlō” means numbing or getting high. It has been in use since at least 1842, when it appeared in the Hawaiian language newspaper *Ka Nonanona*. It’s also the reason for the name of the cannabis brand lōlō. In Barack Obama’s early years living in Hawaii, he and his “Choom Gang” (stoner crew) called weed pakalōlō. We love Maui Wowie and classic Kona Gold.

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WOODY'S ON BOARD

At the 18th Emerald Cup Awards held in May in Hollywood, actor Woody Harrelson was presented the Willie Nelson Lifetime Achievement Award. That same weekend, he made an appearance outside of his new dispensary in West Hollywood, California celebrating its grand opening. "It is quite an honor and a privilege to be here in West Hollywood with all of you," Harrelson said at the grand opening on May 13. "It means so much to us to be a part of this community, which I've always loved, and I think that, probably, we're gonna do everything we can to, you know, hopefully we've added more beauty and more good times here. And I also do hopefully help make West Hollywood citizens a little bit higher." The dispensary, called The Woods, got the red ribbon treatment, where Harrelson and his team were presented with a Certificate of Recognition from the West Hollywood City Council, and a framed \$1 bill for good luck (which is a West Hollywood Chamber of Commerce tradition, according to *WEHO TIMES*).



CALL ME
TOKIN'
WALKEN.



WALKEN WITH WEED

Actor Christopher Walken, whose career spans numerous decades, briefly shared about his cannabis consumption with *The New York Times Magazine*. Journalist David Marchese asked Walken a wide variety of questions about his career and personal life, such as what he likes to read. The interviewer asked Walken about if he was "ever a big pot smoker" and if he still smokes today, to which the actor replied "Sure." In an additional question about what Walken likes to do when he's high, he explained that cannabis has its place in his weekend routine. Earlier in the interview, he referred to his friend, who said, "there's nothing better on Sunday morning: *The Times* with a cup of coffee, in front of the fireplace"—but after the cannabis questions, he added to that answer. "When I told that story about how my friend used to say Sunday morning, *The New York Times* and a good cup of coffee sitting in front of the fire, I failed to mention that he also said a couple of puffs on a joint."

PHOTOS: SHUTTERSTOCK

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BORDER DISPUTE

A copy of a U.S. Customs and Border Protection document was recently made public, which covers how working in the legal Canadian cannabis industry does not make a person inadmissible to the United States. The document was last updated in October 2018, but was only recently made public by Davis Wright Tremaine LLP (DWT), which pursued the document through the Freedom of Information Act. “If the alien is engaged in business in a marijuana business in Canada, where there is no commerce with the United States, that alone would likely not make an alien inadmissible,” the document states, saying that it applies to anyone working any role in the cannabis industry. DWT wrote an article on its findings and cleared the air about its meaning. “DWT doubted that the agency’s position had any basis in law or that the agency was using its enforcement powers in a permissible way,” a trio of authors wrote. “Agencies like CBP lack the authority to make new law or issue decisions regarding the official U.S. response to changes in foreign law.” The DWT article concludes with a recommendation that anyone associated with the cannabis industry who is detained and questioned should seek legal guidance, as it is still possible for individuals to receive a lifetime ban from entering the U.S.

ACCESS DENIED

In October 2021, Lucas Sirois from Maine was ordered to follow specific release conditions while on bail for selling cannabis illegally (he allegedly led an operation that collected \$13 million over a six-year time frame—to which he plead guilty). In April 2022, his legal team petitioned to have these conditions amended to allow Sirois to use medical cannabis to treat his chronic pain, which is legal under Maine law, while he’s out on bail. However, in a May 5 court document, U.S. District Court Magistrate Judge John C. Nivision denied the amendment request, stating that federal law still makes cannabis illegal. “The order requires that defendant not use marijuana and ‘not violate federal, state, or local law,’” reads Nivision’s court order. “The Maine law that permits the use of medical marijuana does not override the federal requirements for conditions of pretrial release—where federal law and state law provide contradictory directives, federal law controls.” U.S. Attorneys Darcie McElwee and Noah Falk also opposed the request to alter the release conditions, stating that the “court should enforce the existing terms of supervision and the federal law by continuing to prohibit the defendant’s use of medical marijuana. Controlled Substances Act contains no exceptions—express or implied—for medically prescribed marijuana.”



IF IT'S FREE, IT'S FOR ME

Thailand Health Minister Anutin Charnvirakul announced on May 8 that the country’s government would be giving away one million cannabis plants to residents on June 9, which is the first day that Thailand citizens became legally allowed to grow medical cannabis at home. On Facebook, Charnvirakul shared that there is a bright future for cannabis in Thailand. “It is an opportunity for people and the state to earn income from marijuana, hemp, tens of billions of baht,” he said in a translated Facebook post. He also explained that the new law empowers people to legally advertise their cannabis products publicly. Charnvirakul originally announced in February that Thailand would be removing cannabis from its list of controlled substances. With the new regulations, if any Thai companies or business owners seek to grow cannabis with the intent to sell they must first register with a mobile application called Pluk Kan, which is managed by the Thailand Food and Drug Administration.

CAMPTM



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LONDON BRIDGING THE GAP

The Mayor of London, England, Sadiq Khan, announced the creation of the London Drugs Commission in May. An official press release shared how Khan spent four days in Los Angeles, where he met with local law enforcement and also visited local dispensaries and cultivators to explore how to learn from their success and replicate in London. “The illegal drugs trade causes huge damage to our society and we need to do more to tackle this epidemic and further the debate around our drugs laws. That’s why I am here today in L.A. to see first-hand the approach they have taken to cannabis,” Khan said. He met with Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti to discuss how to embrace safe cannabis regulations. “The decriminalization and legalization of cannabis offers historically marginalized communities opportunities for healing, entrepreneurship, and wealth creation in this growing industry,” Garcetti said in a statement. “Cities have so much to learn from one another, and I applaud Mayor Khan’s thoughtful approach as London moves forward.” Currently, Lord Charlie Falconer QC has been chosen to lead the commission, with other members to be chosen and announced this summer. University College London has also been appointed to assist the commission with evidence-based research regarding “criminal justice, health, and economic implications.”

GERMAN PROGRESS

German government officials are beginning to act on their plans to work on cannabis legalization. In May, Minister of Health Karl Lauterbach told the newspaper *Handelsblatt* that cannabis legalization talks would begin this summer, with a hopeful final draft law to be revealed soon. “The time over the summer must be used to vigorously push reforms that could no longer be pushed in the fall,” reads a

translated excerpt from the newspaper. Justice Minister Marco Buschmann also shared that the country will be moving forward with its plans for legalization. “The legalization of #cannabis is coming. Karl Lauterbach wants to present a draft law in 2022. It is realistically possible to implement the law by spring 2023. We’re even trying to do it earlier: it usually takes six to nine months for such a law to be passed,” Buschmann wrote in a translated Tweet. The German government originally announced in November 2021 that it was ramping up for legalization discussions, but at the time did not provide any timeline or details. A study released around the same time by the Düsseldorf Institute for Competition Economics predicts that legalization could bring in \$4.7 billion euros annually, and create over 27,000 jobs.



A SOCIAL EQUITY WIN

Wu-Tang Clan rapper Method Man’s cannabis brand, TICAL (aka Taking Into Consideration All Lives, which is also the name of the rapper’s 1994 album) marked its official expansion into Michigan on May 17. Method Man has partnered with Glorious Cannabis Co., which is based out of Rochester Hills, Michigan, to produce his cannabis products. “Partnering with TICAL and Method Man is about so much more than just working with a celebrity,” said Glorious Cannabis Co.’s Vice President of Marketing, Pete Truby, according to *Benzinga*. “Method Man has been a true pioneer in the culture for over 20 years, and his passion for both top-tier quality and raising awareness about injustice is an inspiration. We’re excited about this partnership and are working hard to ensure our product lives up to the high standards of TICAL’s great brand.” TICAL launched in five black-owned cannabis dispensaries in Michigan, including Remedy, House of Zen, House of Mary Jane, West Coast Meds and Viola, in addition to launching in eight House of Dank dispensary locations as well. Originally TICAL launched in California in June 2020, followed by an expansion into Nevada and Colorado. Aside from this leap into the Michigan cannabis market, the brand also has plans to move into Arkansas and the Pacific Northwest sometime in late 2022 as well.



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zigzag.com/products/rose-cones

Rose petals in the place of traditional rolling papers add a great taste. In terms of smoking rose petals, it's better to buy them from vendors who vet petals for potential toxins present in decorative roses and who apply humidity control. In partnership with CaliGreenGold, Zig-Zag launched the **Zig-Zag Rose Cones** as part of the Zig-Zag Rose Collection. To encourage more sustainable practices, Zig-Zag launched the Burn One/Plant One initiative with a goal to become carbon neutral and a promise to plant one tree in California every time you spend more than \$15 online.

\$19.99 for a 3-pack



WHERE'S THE CHEEBA?

cheebachews.com

Trifecta Be Happy Taffy by Cheeba Chews is everything you need in an edible: a wide spectrum of cannabinoids, a reliable high, and a good flavor. Cheeba Chews have the same consistency of a Tootsie Roll or semi-stiff saltwater taffy. Trifecta has a 1:1:1 formulation of CBG, CBD, and THC and 300 mg of total active cannabinoids. The best part about Cheeba Chews is that they come with 20 pieces per pack, allowing consumers the ability to dial in on their perfect dose.

Prices Vary

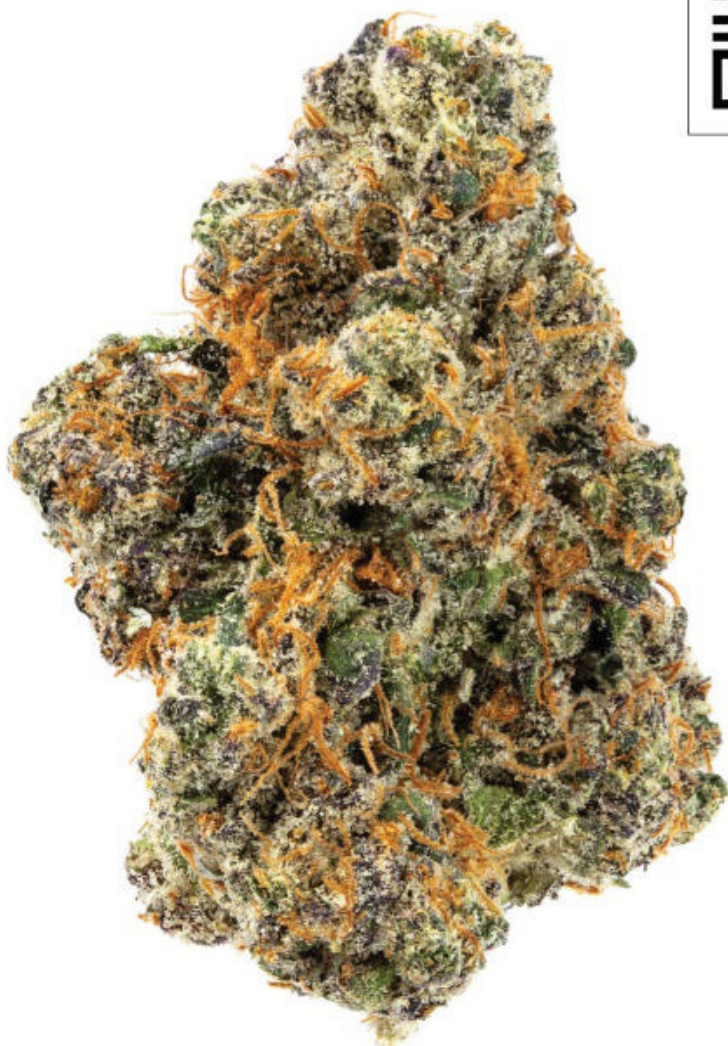


HOODIE FOR HEADS

thefreakbrothers.com

Own a piece of history! *The Freak Brothers* and other hippie comix (underground adult comic books) showed people how to grow weed and take psychedelics. On the front, the Limited Edition **High Times x Freak Brothers Hoodie** features the slogan, “Dope will get you through times of no money better than money will get you through times of no dope.” The back of the hoodie is a screen print of the February 1977 *High Times* cover featuring the Fabulous Furry Freak Brothers, the first time they graced the cover of the magazine. Also, don’t miss *The Freak Brothers* on Tubi, with a second season in the works, slated for December 2022.

\$49.99



GET A WHIFF OF THIS

cookies.co

Cookies and The Smokers Club released a new cultivar, **Peee-Yewww!** Kush Mintz x Sherb crossed with Animal Cookies. It’s one of the most aromatic and potent drops from Jonny Shipes and Berner to date. The taste was like a cookie dough cupcake combined with overripe fruit on the exhale. The strain maintains the dank, GSC-esque appeal with prolonged potency. The indoor flower has deep purple tones and great shelf appeal. The colorful stoney art on the label was illustrated by the popular artist Lard Humungus, with corresponding merchandise. It is now available at all California Cookies and Lemonade locations.

Prices Vary

DIABETES, DRIVING RESEARCH & CANNA-HISTORY

What is the “best”
medical use for cannabis?

-Max E. Miser

The legendary Dr. Donald
Abrams recently reviewed
the research on how
cannabis can help people
handle the treatments for

cancer, and he makes a
compelling case. Given the
rapid onset of anti-nausea
effects of inhaled, vapor-
ized cannabis, it's unparal-
leled. The actual anti-tu-
mor properties of the plant
are not well-researched
in humans yet, but when
it comes to helping people

get through chemo, it's very
effective.

Does cannabis prevent
diabetes?

-Heath E. Diet

A review of eight huge data
sets suggests a modest
protective effect, with
cannabis users showing
rates of Diabetes Mellitus
(Type I) that are 20-40%
lower than non-users.
Animal work suggests that
THC can improve glucose
parameters. Obviously, our
choices for “munchies” are
critical.

Cannabis and driving
research has gotten
too complicated! For
less than the price of an
eighth, I can get a ride
most anyplace. Am I
being alarmist?

-Lyn Mosine

Data in the *Journal of the
American Medical Asso-
ciation* suggest that our
perceptions of our driving

ability and actual driving
ability don't line up very
well. Driving can be a bit of
buzzkill, too. Turns out that,
depending upon dosage, it
can take four hours to get
all of your driving skills
back after consuming.
Sounds like you're just
eager to enjoy yourself
without any negative con-
sequences.

You used to say that
cannabis started with
Shen Nung back in 2737
BCE, but I feel like I've
seen other authors claim
it's 12,000 years old.
What's the deal?

-History Duff

Although good old Shen
Nung gets credit for writing
the first list of medical uses
almost 5,000 years ago,
archeological evidence
suggests that after the last
glacial period (12 millen-
nia ago!), nomadic folks
carried seeds. Perhaps
it was just for hemp, but
cannabis and humans have
been together a long, long
time. 

PHOTOS: SHUTTERSTOCK



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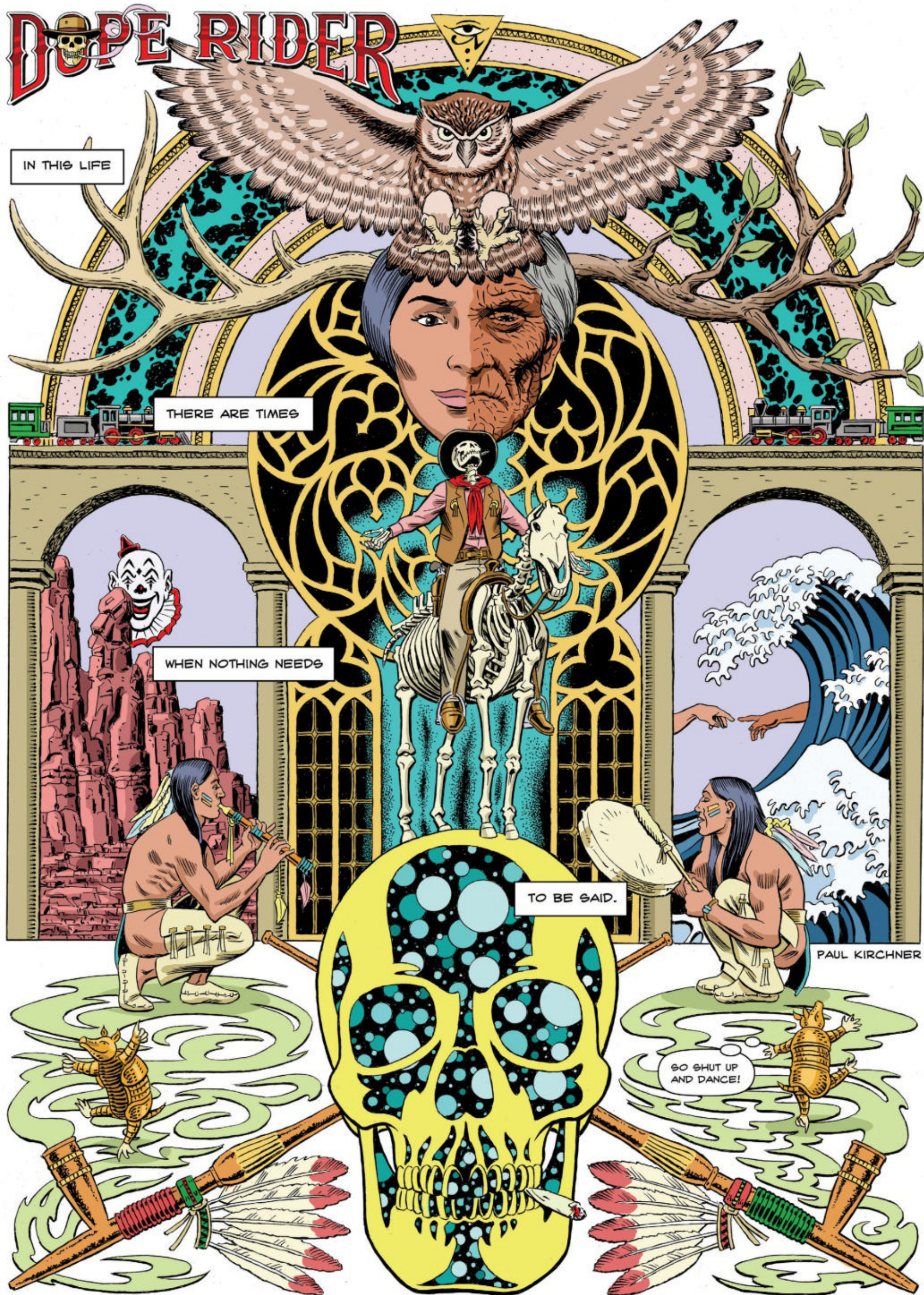
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PAUL KIRCHNER



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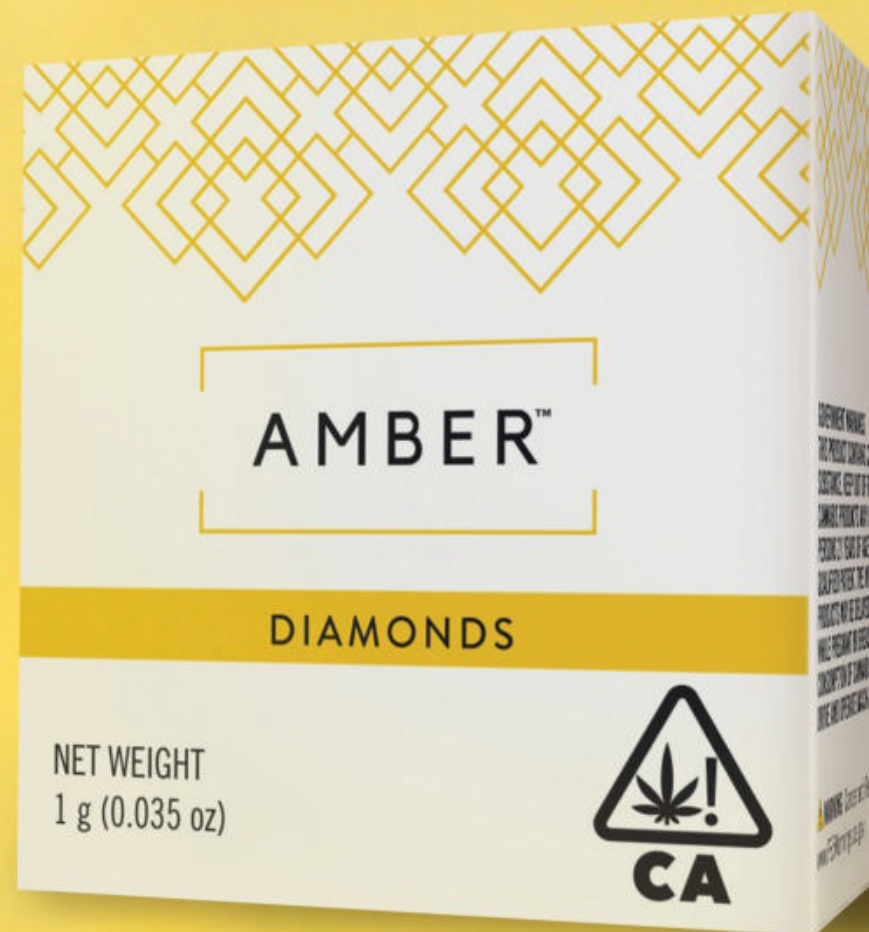
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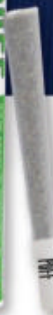
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